

MARYLAND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WM. BULLOCK CLARK, STATE GEOLOGIST

THE COUNTIES OF MARYLAND
Their Origin, Boundaries, and Election Districts



BY

EDWARD B. MATHEWS

(Special Publication, Volume VI, Part V)

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PART V

THE COUNTIES OF MARYLAND
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BY

EDWARD B. MATHEWS

THE COUNTIES OF MARYLAND, THEIR ORIGIN, BOUNDARIES, AND ELECTION DISTRICTS

BY

EDWARD B. MATHEWS

INTRODUCTORY.

The counties in Maryland occupy a far more important position than do similar political divisions in many other states of the Union. This prominence of the county is due primarily to the fact that in Maryland it serves as the unit of division of the territory of the State and is not formed by the combination of smaller integral units, as is the case in the North and West, where townships with their own local political organization are the units of political division. Where townships exist they are united to form a county and the county organization is accordingly more general and less complete than is the case in this State. Maryland possesses incorporated towns and villages analogous to those of other parts of the United States but the nearest analogue to a township—the election district—is not a political unit with its own individual government, but is rather a precinct serving for election and other purposes within the county. In Virginia the counties are often composed of several Hundreds or Parishes which become the local units in popular consideration if not in political government.

A second reason why the county is of unusual importance in Maryland and one or two other states arises from the agricultural occupations of the people and the widely scattered settlement of individuals of culture and cosmopolitan interests. These are wont to refer to their residences as in a given county rather than near some insignificant town or cross-roads which serves as a post office address. Large towns, as a rule, are unavailable for such close location of residence.

This importance of a county is not of recent development for it may be detected among the earlier records of the first settlers along the Potomac. Yet, in spite of the prominent place which the counties occupy in the popular parlance, there are few subjects regarding the origin of which there is more uncertain knowledge on the part of the local inhabitant. The date of erection of the home county and the manner in which it was set apart are alike but vaguely known. This ignorance is doubtless due in great measure to the age of the counties and the many modes of incorporating or erecting them which have been employed. These have varied from the personal announcement of the Proprietor, as in the case of old Worcester County, to formal legislative enactment or the insertion of new sections in the constitution of the State by the delegates at constitutional conventions. The original limits of the counties are often vaguely known or actually undeterminable, while in several instances, such as Baltimore County, there exist no extant records indicating exactly the manner or time of their erection. The nearest it is possible to come to the date of the formation of some is based upon the finding of the name or the reference to some county official in the contemporaneous legal records. Old

The preparation of large scale maps of the counties of the State by the Maryland Geological Survey has necessitated the exact delimitation of the counties and this in turn has called for the careful study of the legal records relating to them and their boundaries from the settlement of the State in April, 1634, to the present day. The results of these investigations are summarized in the following pages.

TIME OF ERECTING COUNTIES.

Among the first impressions received from a study of the records dealing with the origin of the individual county is the fact that there has been apparent no single well established mode of procedure by which the counties have come into being and that the great majority of the twenty-three counties, with Baltimore City, which now constitute the State of Maryland, were already erected prior to the Revolution and

the larger part of them prior to the beginning of the eighteenth century.

It has been customary in enumerating the counties of the State to arrange them according to the dates of their erection and this arrangement is the one most familiar on account of its constant use in legislative roll calls. The origin of the names of the counties together with the dates of their formation and their areas are given in the following table:

Counties.	Origin of Name.	Date of formation.	Area in square miles.
St. Mary's.....	In honor of the Virgin Mary, the landing having been made on the Feast of the Annunciation	1637	269.1
Kent	After the English county.....	1642	281.0
Anne Arundel....	After the Lady Anne Arundel, wife of Cecilius, second Lord Baltimore.....	1650	430.4
Calvert	After the family name of the Proprietary.	1650	216.8
Charles	After Charles, Lord Baltimore.....	1658	462.0
Baltimore	From the Proprietary's Irish Barony (Celtic bilte mor; i. e. the large town).	1659	646.8
Talbot	After Grace Talbot, daughter of George, first Lord Baltimore.....	1662	267.1
Somerset	After Mary Somerset, sister of Lord Baltimore	1666	328.6
Dorchester	After Earl Dorset, a family friend of the Calverts	1668	573.2
Cecil	After the forename of the second Lord Baltimore	1674	374.6
Prince George's..	After Prince George of Denmark.....	1695	479.6
Queen Anne's....	After Queen Anne of England.....	1706	363.4
Worcester	After the Earl of Worcester.....	1742	491.5
Frederick	After Frederick, heir apparent.....	1748	660.0
Caroline	After Lady Calvert, sister of the last Lord Baltimore	1773	317.4
Harford	After Henry Harford, last Proprietary...	1773	439.8
Washington	After General Washington.....	1776	457.3
Montgomery	After General Montgomery.....	1776	517.6
Allegany	From Oolikhanna; i. e. beautiful stream..	1789	440.5
Carroll	After Charles Carroll of Carrollton.....	1836	445.2
Howard	After Col. John Eager Howard, the elder.	1851	249.1
Wicomico	After the river of that name, from wicko, house, and mekee, building; i. e. referring to an Indian town on the banks.	1867	368.9
Garrett	After John W. Garrett.....	1872	681.0

Charles 1650.

*1654
Called
Patuxent Co.
1654-1658*

The arrangement in the table brings out in broad lines the general order of settlement within the State. First there comes St. Mary's County, representing the lonely settlement on the Potomac, then that of Kent, indicating the division of the State into an eastern and a western shore. Following this the western shore is divided into units suitable to local government, Anne Arundel representing the Puritans on the Severn, Calvert that on the Patuxent, and Charles that on the Potomac above St. Mary's. Baltimore County with its wide extent at the time of its formation, included portions of the eastern and western shores and represented the settlements at the head of the Chesapeake. Following its establishment came the preliminary division of the eastern shore, the settlements here being grouped by the necks of land between the dominant rivers rather than by the contiguity of the opposite sides of a single river as was the case on the western shore. Subsequent to the erection of Prince George's County at the close of the seventeenth century, the erection of new counties has been in the nature of the subdivision of the territory assigned to some earlier-formed county, the subdivision being required by increase in population and knowledge regarding the given territory.

METHOD OF ERECTING COUNTIES.

The following lists arranged according to the methods employed in erecting the several counties serve as an interesting indication of the irregularities of method pursued. The Governor, usually with the assent of the Council and frequently at the instigation of the Proprietary, apparently ordered the erection of the following counties:

St. Mary's. ¹	Charles.
Kent.	Somerset.
Charles (old).	Durham.
Calvert.	Worcester (old).

In the foregoing cases notice of the erection of the various counties

¹ The first evidence of these several counties is as follows:

St. Mary's. Commission issued to sheriff June 29, 1637. Md. Arch.,
3: 61.

Temporarily called Potomac 1654-1658.

may have been promulgated by proclamation of the Governor, but only one instance, that of Cecil County, is now to be found. In this case two proclamations were issued,² the first proclamation erecting the county, the second modifying the limits first assigned. In both cases the proclamation was issued in the name of the Captain General.

The most frequently observed method in the formation of the counties was by Act of Assembly although the dominant participations of the popular branch of the government, except in the case of Anne Arundel County and the acts of the Cromwellian government, are later than those of the Governor and Council. The following counties were erected through the action of the General Assembly:

-
- Kent* Commission issued to Commander August 2, 1642. Md. Arch., 3: 105.
There had been a sheriff for the Isle of Kent, as a Hundred of St. Mary's County, since Feb. 9, 1637-1638.
- Charles (old)*.... Order in Council Oct. 3, 1650. Issued at the direct instigation of Lord Baltimore. This county was on the south side of Patuxent River and included parts of what are now St. Mary's, Charles, and Prince George's counties. Md. Arch., 3: 259.
- Calvert* Order in Council July 3, 1654. Md. Arch., 3: 308.
Temporarily called Patuxent County 1654-1658. Md. Arch., 1: 341.
- Charles* Order in Council April 13, 1658. Md. Arch., 3: 341.
Not the same territory as the earlier Charles County.
- Somerset* Order in Council August 22, 1666. Md. Arch., 3: 553.
- Durham* Order in Council October 22, 1669. Md. Arch., 5: 108.
Intended to include the northern part of what is now the State of Delaware.
- Worcester (old)*. (Unnamed) Order in Council October 22, 1669. Md. Arch., 5: 57.
Also (by name) Order in Council July 19, 1672. Md. Arch., 5: 108.
The limits assigned to these two Worcester counties were different and neither Worcester nor Durham County was ever fully organized or represented in the Maryland Assembly. Their erection was proposed by Lord Baltimore to offset the aggressions of the representatives of the Duke of York on the Delaware which was claimed under the Maryland charter.

² June 6, 1674, Md. Arch., 15: 39; June 19, 1674, Md. Arch., 15: 41.

Anne Arundel	.....(1650)	Acts of Assembly, 1650, Ch. 8.
Providence	.....(1654)	" " 1654, " 17.
Patuxent	.....(1654)	" " 1654, " 17.
Potomac	.....(1654)	" " 1654, " 17.
Prince George's	.....(1695)	" " 1695, " 13.
Queen Anne's	.....(1706)	" " 1706, " 3.
Worcester	.....(1742)	" " 1742, " 14.
Frederick	.....(1748)	" " 1748, " 15.
Caroline	.....(1773)	" " (Nov. sess.), 1773, Ch. 6.
Harford	.....(1773)	" " " 1773, " 10.
Allegany	.....(1789)	" " " 1789, " 29.
Carroll	.....(1836)	" " " 1836, " 19.
Garrett	.....(1872)	" " " 1872, " 212.

Four counties have been erected by constitutional conventions, two of them being made by the constitutional convention of 1776, one by the second constitutional convention, 1850, and one by the fourth, 1867. The counties thus erected are as follows:

Washington	.....(1776)	Howard	.....(1850)
Montgomery	.....(1776)	Wicomico	.....(1867)

Washington and Montgomery were erected prior to the completion of the first constitution out of previously recognized "districts" of Frederick County. Howard and Wicomico were erected by the adoption of sections in the respective constitutions.

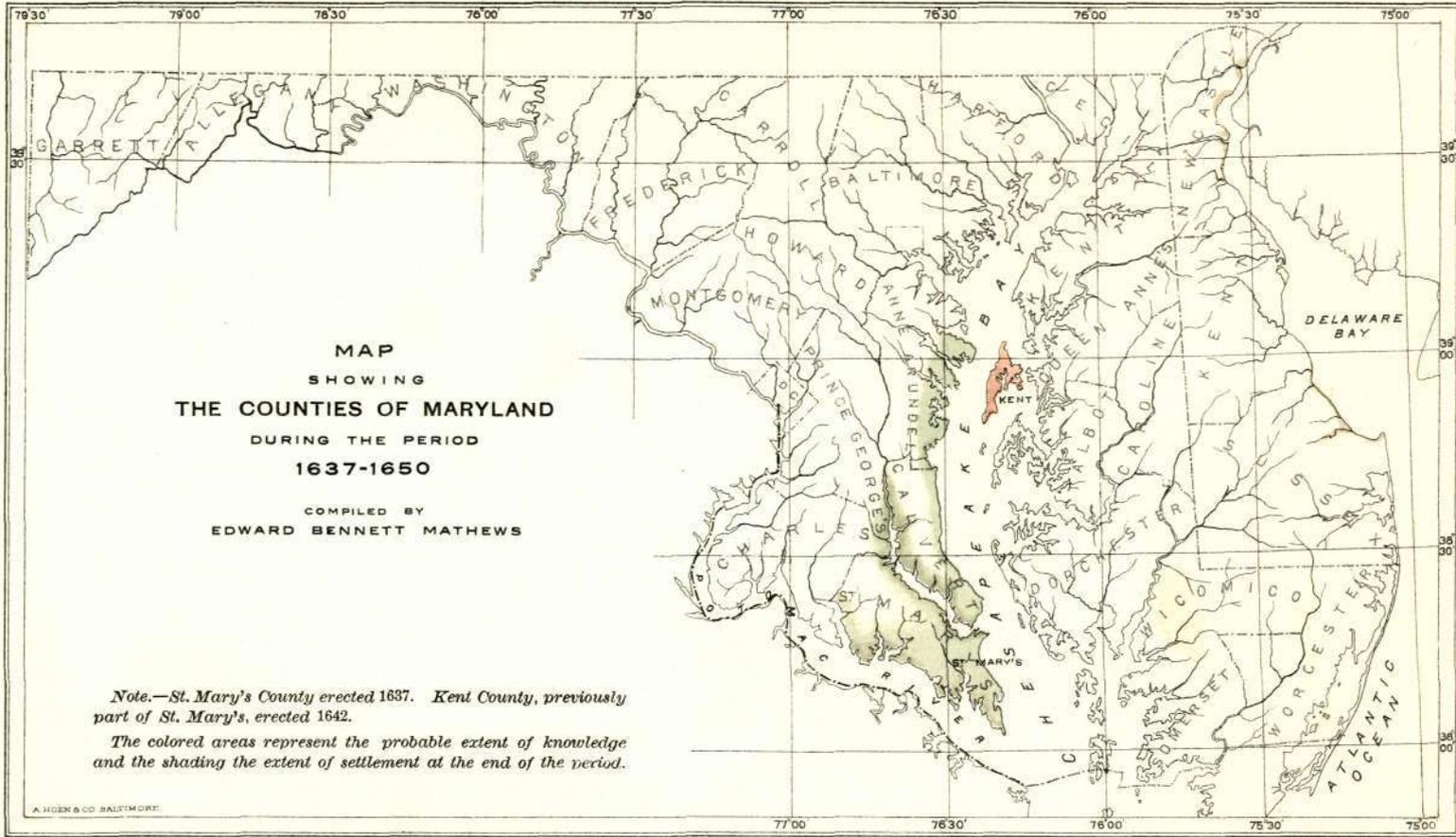
The records regarding the erection of three of the counties are entirely lacking or so incomplete that nothing can be told as to the way they were erected, but from the dates it is probable that the form pursued was that of an order of the Governor in Council. The evidence of their existence is first shown in each instance by the record of the issuance of writs to the sheriffs of the several counties, the names of the new counties appearing for the first time in the lists. Baltimore, Talbot, and Dorchester counties are the three with incomplete records. One may gain some conception of the limits originally decreed by subsequent incidents, but in no one of the cases are the bounds specified by the original Act known.³

³The first evidence of the existence of these counties is in writs issued to the sheriff on the following dates:

Baltimore, Jan. 12, 1659/60, Md. Arch., 1: 381.

Talbot, Feb. 18, 1661/62, Md. Arch., 1: 425.

Dorchester, Feb. 16, 1668/69, Md. Arch., 3: 448.



MAP
 SHOWING
 THE COUNTIES OF MARYLAND
 DURING THE PERIOD
 1637-1650

COMPILED BY
 EDWARD BENNETT MATHEWS

Note.—St. Mary's County erected 1637. Kent County, previously part of St. Mary's, erected 1642.

The colored areas represent the probable extent of knowledge and the shading the extent of settlement at the end of the period.

A. HOEN & CO. BALTIMORE.

The methods governing the erection of counties subsequent to the American Revolution have been determined by the various constitutions.

The Constitution of 1776 contains no provision for the erection of new counties, it apparently being the consensus of the Convention that the work which they had already done in dividing Frederick County into three parts by the erection of Washington and Montgomery counties met all the requirements at that time. This first Constitution of the State remained in force until the adoption of the second Constitution in 1850. It was, however, very much modified by the Acts of 1836, Chapter 197, which changed in great measure the organic law of the State with respect to the election of governor and other matters. Although the Act grouped the counties into three gubernatorial districts and changed the representation of the towns, by including them in certain instances within the county, no change was made in the limits of the counties then existing and no general law was laid down as to the manner of erecting new counties.

The Constitution of 1850 devotes a special article to new counties in which it erects Howard District, which up to this time had been a part of Anne Arundel County, into Howard County, and provides for the erection of a new county with the limits now possessed by Garrett County whenever the territory so described should include a population of 10,000, and the majority of the electors should desire to separate and form such a new county. There is, however, no provision made for the formation of new counties in the future.

The Constitution of 1864 provided for the organization of new counties by vesting the power in the General Assembly. They were also empowered to move the county seat or change the county boundaries under certain limitations. At this time it was provided that no new county should contain less than 400 square miles or less than 10,000 white inhabitants, a provision which still remains in our Constitution of 1867. The second section of Article 10 in the Constitution of 1864 states: "The General Assembly shall provide by general law for dividing the counties into townships or permanent municipal corporations in place of the existing election districts, prescribing their limits and con-

fidings to them all powers necessary for the management of their public local concerns." This apparently mandatory provision of the Constitution does not appear to have been carried out as the election districts still exist.

The Constitution of 1867, which is still in force, provided for the erection of Wicomico County and repeated the general provision for the organization of new counties, the localization and removal of county seats, and the changing of county lines; vesting the power as before in the General Assembly. The same provisions were also made to the effect that no new county should contain less than 400 square miles and that no existing county should have its territory reduced to less than the same amount. This limiting clause practically forbids the General Assembly to erect any new county in the State of Maryland without a readjustment of several of the now existing counties. The largest counties at the present time are Garrett (681 sq. m.), Frederick (660), Baltimore (647), Dorchester (573), Montgomery (518), and Worcester (492). The division of Garrett into two counties with the addition of a small amount of Allegany is not possible since Allegany County has only 40 square miles to spare. Even if it in turn encroached upon Washington County the total area of these three contiguous counties is not sufficient to make an additional county of the size required without the reduction of existing counties below the limit provided.

A new county might be organized out of a portion of Frederick County but to do so it would be necessary to reduce Montgomery and either Washington or Carroll counties.

The rapid increase in population in the vicinity of Baltimore and the present large territory of Baltimore County might develop the necessity for the organization of an additional county in this part of the State, but according to the laws as they now exist this would be quite difficult since if Carroll, Harford, and Anne Arundel counties gave up their surplus, above the prescribed minimum, there would still be less area than is required for a new county.

Dorchester County, with its 573 square miles extends over a much wider territory on account of its estuaries and islands, yet from it no new

county could be easily erected in accordance with the present law. Talbot, Caroline, and Wicomico, the counties contiguous to Dorchester are all less than 400 square miles in extent and could therefore yield nothing for a new county.

From these facts it would appear that if occasion demands additional counties—a somewhat remote possibility—it would be necessary to amend the Constitution as it now exists.

ELECTION DISTRICTS.

Each of the counties is divided into a series of election districts which in turn may be further subdivided into election precincts for the convenience of the voters. Prior to 1800 the entire population of the State was scarcely more than a quarter of a million and the voting population was much smaller. Moreover, the government of the State was such that voters had fewer questions presented to them than at present. There was apparently inconvenience for many voters in the exercise of their suffrage but the county was regarded a sufficiently small unit for electoral purposes. In 1798 a law⁴ was passed dividing the nineteen counties as they existed into election districts. Before this law could become effective it was necessary to pass an act of confirmation⁵ and subsequently commissions⁶ to subdivide the various counties were authorized. The counties and Baltimore City were divided as follows:

	1798.	1903.	
	Election districts.	Election districts.	Precincts
Allegany	6	28	42
Anne Arundel	5	7	16
Baltimore City*	8	24	317
Baltimore County	7	15	49
Calvert	3	3	4
Caroline	3	8	9
Carroll	— ⁷	13	21
Cecil	4	9	12
Charles	4	9	9
Dorchester	3	17	22
Frederick	7	26	38

⁴ Acts of 1798, Ch. 115. ⁵ Acts of 1799, Ch. 48. ⁶ Acts of 1799, Ch. 50.

⁷ Not created until 1836, included in Frederick and Baltimore counties.

* Separated from Baltimore county by Convention of 1850.

	1798.	1905.	
	Election districts.	Election districts.	Precincts.
Garrett	— ⁸	14	14
Harford	5	6	16
Howard	— ⁹	6	7
Kent	3	7	11
Montgomery	5	13	16
Prince George's	5	17	18
Queen Anne's	3	7	9
St. Mary's	3	9	10
Somerset	3	15	17
Talbot	4	5	14
Washington	5	25	31
Wicomico	— ¹⁰	14	14
Worcester	5	9	9
	—	—	—
Total	91	306	725

The total number of election districts including the wards of Baltimore City numbered 91 while the corresponding units to-day number 306 and many of them are divided into election precincts of which there are 317 in Baltimore City alone. The facilities for voting have been increased nearly eight times while the population has increased scarcely three and the area has remained constant. Since at the same time the means of communication have greatly improved it is evident that the voter of to-day demands more in the way of ease in voting to induce participation in public affairs.

The methods employed in increasing the election districts and precincts have varied somewhat but not as widely as in the case of the erection of counties. Prior to 1836 the change in the election districts of a county was equivalent to a constitutional amendment and required a confirmatory act by a subsequent General Assembly. Since that date this has not been necessary and the usual rule has been to increase the number of election districts by specific acts of the General Assembly which have not received confirmation by subsequent legislation. In a few cases general laws have been introduced vesting the power to change

⁸ Not erected until 1872, included in Allegany County.

⁹ Not erected until 1850, included in Anne Arundel County.

¹⁰ Not erected until 1867, included in Somerset and Worcester counties.

the election districts in the Board of County Commissioners. Thus Washington County in 1860 authorized its County Commissioners to erect new election districts whenever necessary. In Charles County the Commissioners have been authorized to change the lines on petition since 1870 but apparently do not have the power to erect new districts. The County Commissioners in Calvert and Talbot counties are authorized to divide the present election districts into precincts to meet the requirements, while this power is conferred upon the election supervisors in Harford County.

The fact that the election district is frequently modified by increasing the number of election precincts within it and also the fact that the number of election districts has little or nothing to do with the delegated powers of representation, except as a general means of designating units of territory, would seem to indicate that it is losing its significance as a political subdivision since it possesses no organic political life within itself as in the case of townships which occupy analogous positions in other states.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTIES.

ALLEGANY COUNTY.

Few counties in the State have a less varied history regarding their boundaries and none were erected with simpler phraseology. According to the Acts of the Assembly passed in 1789:

All that part of Washington County which lies to the westward of Sideling Hill creek, shall be and is hereby erected into a new county by the name of Allegany County.

That brief statement indicates the early settlements of Allegany County as constituting a part of its eastern neighbors. Prior to 1776, when Washington County was erected, the rapidly increasing number of inhabitants in the vicinity of Fort Cumberland had been residents of Frederick County with the county seat at Frederick. Subsequent to its formation, until the erection of Garrett County in 1872, the Allegany County courts exercised jurisdiction over all the western section of the State, including Garrett County. The boundary line between Garrett

and Allegany counties, first stated in the Constitution of 1850, is defined by the Acts of Assembly of 1872 as a straight line beginning at the summit of Big Backbone or Savage Mountain, where that mountain is crossed by the Mason and Dixon line, to the middle of Savage River where it empties into the Potomac. Various attempts have been made to run the line which should fit these conditions. The County Surveyor of Allegany County began such a line at the mouth of Savage River but intersected the Mason and Dixon line on Little Savage Mountain more than three-quarters of a mile west of where the law indicates. This is known as the Chisholm line. Somewhat later in 1878 the County Surveyor of Garrett County began a line at the northern terminus, or the intersection of the crest of Big Savage Mountain and the Mason and Dixon line, and ran southward toward the mouth of Savage River. It came out in the vicinity of Westernport, something less than a mile east of the desired point. In 1898 a line was marked which was not only a straight line but connected the two points specified in the original law erecting Garrett County. Because of certain technicalities this line was repudiated by the Allegany County Court and an attempt was made in the Legislature of 1906 to validate this line if the voters of Garrett County saw fit to do so. Since this Act did not specify the place of voting for such as might be transferred from Allegany to Garrett County it has recently been held that the line run in 1898 in accordance with the original Act is still invalid.

The northern boundary of Allegany County is formed by a portion of the famous Mason and Dixon line which was run prior to the American Revolution to settle the dispute between the proprietaries of Pennsylvania and Maryland. The original line was marked by stone monuments east of Allegany County, but from Sideling Hill on, the difficulties of transporting the stones which had been brought from England became too great. Within the last few years this historic line has been resurveyed and stone monuments have been placed to mark its position.

The southern boundary of Allegany County, which is at the same time the boundary between Maryland and West Virginia, follows the right bank of the Potomac River, whose waters are a part of Allegany County.

ALLEGANY COUNTY ELECTION DISTRICTS.

- 1798 Ch. 115. County divided into 6 election districts.
- 1799 Ch. 48. Confirms Acts of 1798 Ch. 115.
- 1799 Ch. 50. Commission appointed to divide county into 6 election districts.
- 1801 Ch. 59. Commission appointed to make changes who report to County Clerk.
- 1805 Ch. 97. Polling place of 2d election district changed from Simpkins to Selbysport.
- 1814 Ch. 34. Polling place of 4th election district changed.
- 1816 Ch. 32. Increases election districts from 6 to 8.
- 1817 Ch. 14. Confirms Acts of 1816 Ch. 32.
- 1817 Ch. 15. Commission appointed to divide into 8 election districts and to report to County Clerk.
- 1821 Ch. 133. Line between 1st and 4th election districts changed to be as follows:
 "Commencing at some point on Savage River above the present settlement; thence crossing the back bone, above the mouth of Crabb Tree Run; thence crossing the state road about a mile above George Smar's, and to the north branch of Potomac, at or near the mouth of Laurel Run."
- 1824 Ch. 67. County divided into 9 districts the additional district coming off the 7th and 8th. No change in 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. The new election places to be Oldtown, Isaac Osmun's near Fifteen Mile Creek and Walter Slicer's Tavern.
- 1825 Ch. 16. Confirms Acts of 1824 Ch. 67.
- 1832 Ch. 252. Commission appointed to review districts, to make alterations and to report to County Court.
- 1833 Ch. 8. Confirms Acts of 1832 Ch. 252.
- 1835 Ch. 44. Commission appointed to subdivide district No. 1 and to erect new district.
- 1836 Ch. 160. Supplementary act authorizing the commission to select a place of election in district No. 10 and to report to County Clerk.
- 1837 Ch. 39. Line between 4th and 5th election districts changed to
 "run from the head of Jackson's Run, near the top of Dan's Mountain to the mouth thereof, thence with George's Creek to the mouth of Ayer's Run, thence with said last mentioned run to the head thereof, on Savage Mountain.
- 1837 Ch. 183. Commission appointed to revise and alter the divisional lines between election districts No. 1 and No. 10, to change the place of holding the elections, and to report to Allegany County Court. Repealed by Acts of 1839 Ch. 1. Re-enacted by Acts of 1840 Ch. 102.
- 1839 Ch. 1. Repeals Acts of 1837 Ch. 183 and revives Acts of 1835 Ch. 44.

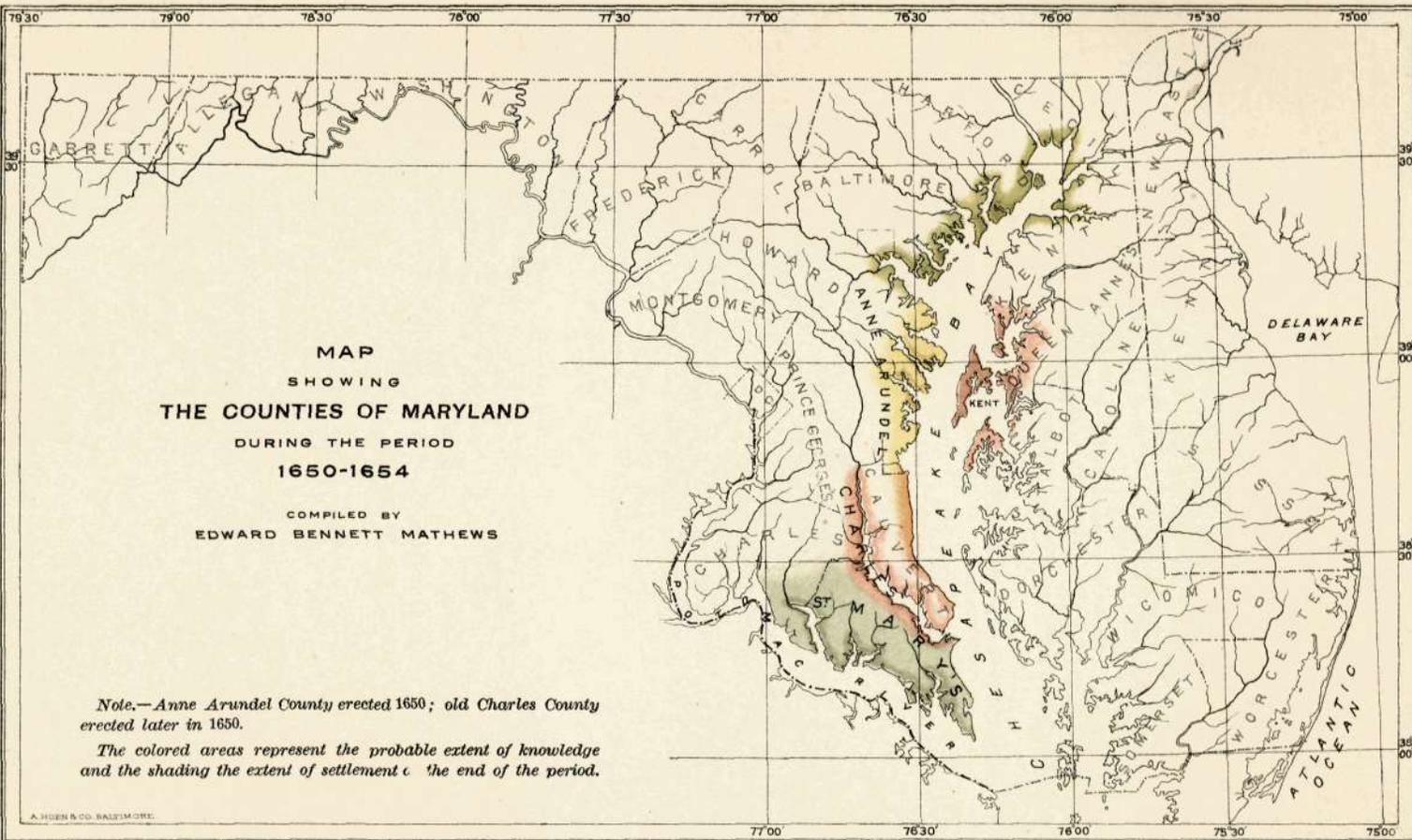
- 1840 Ch. 102. Repeals Acts of 1839 Ch. 1 reviving Acts of 1837 Ch. 183.
- 1841 Ch. 82. Line between the 1st and 4th election district changed as follows:
 "Commencing at the present place where the said line crosses the State road, west of George Smarrs farm, and running with the said State road to the fording of Folly Run, and from thence down with the meanderings of said run to its junction at the north branch of the Potomac river, near where William McRobee now lives."
- 1849 Ch. 4. Polling place of the 1st election district changed to Myrray Thayer's house.
- 1849 Ch. 282. Line of the Flintstone Election District, being No. 8, changed to run as follows:
 "Commencing on the top of Nicholson's Mt., at the western end of the line that separates the 8th and 9th districts in said county, and running thence in a northwestern direction to the Baltimore and Cumberland turnpike road, where the Murley's Branch road intersects said pike, thence down said pike to a lane known as Smith Lane, thence up Pleasant Valley, at the base of Evitt's Mt., to the Pennsylvania line so as to include Pleasant Valley in said Flintstone District."
- 1849 Ch. 394. Commission appointed to establish an additional election district out of No. 2 Report to Allegany County Court. See Garrett County.
- 1849 Ch. 394. That the beginning for the same be at the Pennsylvania line, at the old improvement made by Valentine Shocky, and now belonging to Harney Bane, with a straight line from the beginning so as to intersect the Morgantown road at the National road, then with said road to the top of Cove hill, then leaving said road and running on the south east side of Winding ridge to Bear Creek, then with a straight line crossing Bear Creek to an old house standing in the woods, erected by Joseph Friend of G., then with a straight course crossing the east branch of Bear Creek, then continuing with a straight line to a spring in the road leading from the Senging ground to Selbysport, on Winding ridge, at Thomas Casteel of Thomas, then with a straight line to the Yoh river at Rock lick run, then up said river to Gap run, at the division line between districts number one and number two, then with said line as it now is to the division line between number two and number three, and running with said line between number two and number three to the Pennsylvania line, then with the Pennsylvania line to the beginning. Polling place Accident.
- 1849 Ch. 463. Polling place for 3d election district changed from Little Crossings to the school house at Grantsville.

MAP
 SHOWING
THE COUNTIES OF MARYLAND
 DURING THE PERIOD
1650-1654
 COMPILED BY
EDWARD BENNETT MATHEWS

Note.—Anne Arundel County erected 1650; old Charles County erected later in 1650.

The colored areas represent the probable extent of knowledge and the shading the extent of settlement at the end of the period.

A. HIGEN & CO. BALTIMORE.



- 1852 Ch. 29. Erects new district with the following bounds:
"Commencing at the point of intersection of the dividing line between the said [9th] district and district number seven in said county with the eastern line of district number six, in said county, and from thence in a westerly direction by a straight line, to the southern end of Smith's lane, at the turnpike road, leading from Flintstone to Cumberland, and on the farm now owned by Henry A. Jamison, and heretofore owned by Henry Smith, now deceased; from thence in a northerly direction along said lane to a point from which two lanes diverge; thence along the lane leading in a northwesterly direction to the base of Evitt's mountain; thence along the base of said mountain to the Pennsylvania line, so as to include Pleasant Valley."
- 1852 Ch. 121. Committee appointed to create two new election districts by the alteration and division of election districts 5 and 6. The new district known as Mt. Savage No. 12.
- 1852 Ch. 218. Erects an additional election district out of No. 1 with the following boundaries:
"Beginning . . . at a point on the road leading from the National road, from Piney Grove, where the line of district number one and district number three crosses said road, thence with said road to the top of Hooppole Ridge, at the old burnt school house, thence with the Hooppole road to the Little Yough Bridge, at the old Armstrong farm; said new district to be called district number fourteen or Sangin ground district.
- 1853 Ch. 289. Commission appointed to run and mark the line between the 1st and 4th election districts.
- 1854 Ch. 76. Surveyor authorized to run out, mark and establish the division line between district 11 and 14.
- 1856 Ch. 156. Commission appointed to run out the lines between election districts 3 and 5
"commencing at some point on Savage River, thence by a straight line near Mr. Recknor's tavern, on the National road, to a point on the Pennsylvania State line."
- 1856 Ch. 221. Commission appointed to run out the line between 1st and 4th election districts.
- 1860 Ch. 167. Commission appointed to erect election district No. 15 from 1st, 10th, and 14th districts and to report to the Clerk of Circuit Court. Elections to be held in Oakland.
- 1860 Ch. 310. Commission appointed to create election district No. 16 out of 4th and 5th districts and the southern line of the new district shall not be south of William Shaw's mill and the place of elections shall be Lonaconing.

- 1862 Ch. 4. Polling place of the 10th district changed to the house of Wm. Waltz on the Northwestern Turpike.
- 1872 Ch. 79. Commission appointed and authorized to review election district No. 4 and to make such alterations and division and to create an additional election district, but said commission shall not locate the northern line of said new district north of Laurel Run and said new election district shall be known as district No. 17 and the place for holding the election shall be Barton and the Commission shall report to the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Allegany County.
- 1872 Ch. 150. Divides Cumberland into two election wards to be known as the first ward and the second ward; the first ward shall embrace all that portion of the city lying north and east of the National or Turnpike road leading from Baltimore through said city to Wheeling; and the election polls in said ward shall be held in the Market-house and shall be called the "first ward polls"; the second ward shall embrace all that portion of said city not included in the 1st ward, and the election polls therein shall be held at the court house, and shall be called the "second ward polls."
- 1872 Ch. 221. Separates western part into Garrett County.
- 1872 Ch. 256. County divided into 16 election districts according to the present bounds and limits, but the County Commissioners of Allegany County shall have power and authority to create new election districts in addition to those already established in said County, whenever, in their judgment, the convenience of the voters of the county, or any part thereof, would thereby be promoted, and not otherwise; and shall have powers to abridge or enlarge any districts heretofore established by the Legislature in said County, or which may hereafter be established by the said County Commissioners and said commissioners shall have the further power of designating the place of holding the election polls in all election districts hereafter to be established in said county.
- 1898 Ch. 304. Provides for the survey of the Allegany-Garrett boundary line.
- 1898 Ch. 415. Erects the 26th election district with the following bounds:
 "Beginning at the intersection of Bowery street and the Legislative road, in the town of Frostburg, and running thence with the centre of Bowery street to the National turnpike, then with the centre of said National turnpike westerly to its intersection with the Garrett county line, and then with said Garrett county line southerly to the line of district number nineteen, and with the lines of district number nineteen, reversed to the Legislative road aforesaid, and then with said Legislative road to the point of beginning."
- 1900 Ch. 513. Divides the 18th election district into two election precincts.

- 1900 Ch. 652. Bounds of the 21st election district changed to be as follows:
 "Beginning at Zion Church, on Bedford Road, and running thence down Peavine Run to Mrs. Hardman's; then with the County Road to Frantz Bridge; thence across by the Southern Church to the bridge on the turnpike at Moses Wilson's; thence west by the National Pike to the road at Hamilton's blacksmith shop; thence with a straight line to the Southern Church, on the top of the mountain, near Evan Rice's; thence by a straight line to the Twigg-town School House; thence with the top of Martin's Mountain to the Pennsylvania line; thence with Pennsylvania line west to the centre of Bedford Road; thence with the centre of Bedford Road to the place of beginning."
- 1904 Ch. 66. 27th election district to be erected by Supervisors out of parts of districts 10, 15, and 18.
- 1904 Ch. 383. Makes Precinct 1 of the 26th election district the 26th election district and Precinct 2 a new district to be numbered the 28th district.
- 1906 Ch. 730. An Act to provide for the definite and final establishment of the boundary line between Allegany and Garrett counties, in order to bring under the assessment law certain untaxed lands in said counties.
- 1906 Ch. 770. Boundary so changed as to transfer Clarysville from 17th to 24th election district.

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY.

The original settlement of Anne Arundel County centers about the migration of ten Puritan families from the shores of Nansemond River, Virginia, to the shores lying south of Annapolis. In gratitude for their relief from oppression they called their new settlement Providence, and within ten years had established at least five centers of development, about Herring Creek, West River, South River, Middle Neck, and Broad or Town Neck. At first they objected to taking the oath of allegiance to their Catholic landlord, but on April 6, 1650, they were represented by delegates at the opening of the General Assembly. One of their number was even elected to office. On the 23d of the month (Md. Arch., 1:280) a bill was introduced to erect their settlement into a county. The order was engrossed four days later (Md. Arch., 1:283) and passed on April 29, becoming

An Act for the erecting of Providence into a County by the name of Annarundell.

Be it Enacted by the Lord Propy by and with the assent & approbaco of

the Vpper and Lower House of this Assembly That that part of the Province of Maryland on the west side of the Bay of Chesseopeack over against the Isle of Kent formerly called by the name of Providence, by the Inhabitants there resideing and inhabiting this yeare shall from henceforth bee erected into a Shire or County, by the name of Annarundell County, And by that name hereafter to bee ever called.

This act is Chapter 7, Acts of Assembly for 1650, and may be found in Maryland Archives, volume i, p. 292. It is of particular interest in relation to the subject of this present paper since as Bozman¹¹ says "this is the first act of assembly, and indeed almost the only legislative provision, for the erecting of any county within the province." The latter part of his statement is hardly correct.

The territory of the present Calvert County was laid off the same year, and at a later time disputes arose owing to the position of the counties on the roll call referring to the dates of their erection as to the relative positions of Calvert and Anne Arundel counties. By a vote of the House of Delegates in 1671 it was decided that Anne Arundel County was older than Calvert which had come into existence originally as (old) Charles County, through the initiative of the Lord Proprietary.

Anne Arundel County, bearing as it did, the names of Lady Anne Arundel, wife of Cecilius, Lord Baltimore, a strict Catholic, was not unaffected by the Puritan revolution in Maryland. In October, 1654,¹² by an ordinance of the Puritan Commissioners the southern boundary of the County was made at "Mr. Maishes Creek Commonly called oyster Creek" shown by old land records, in the contest of 1824, to be the same as Fishing Creek and the name was changed to Providence. In 1656, by the quieting of the Province this act was revoked and all laws were supposed to stand as they did in 1654. The name of Anne Arundel was restored, but the inhabitants seemed to retain the definition of the boundary line of October, 1654, for the limits of Anne Arundel and Calvert counties.

The next modification of the territorial limits of Anne Arundel County arose from the erection of Baltimore County, probably in the year 1659,

¹¹ Bozman, vol. ii, p. 393, cf. *ante* p. 424.

¹² Chapter 5, Acts of 1654.

when all of that territory lying to the north and east of the Patapsco River was set aside for the new county. The exact limits between the two jurisdictions were not evident in the records until 1674 when a proclamation¹³ was issued stating that the southern bounds of Baltimore County should be "the south side of Patapsco river, and from the highest plantations on that side of the river, due south two miles into the woods."

The settlements along the Patapsco River prospered and the inhabitants finding it inconvenient to transact their business at old Baltimore on Bush River petitioned that the territory on the south side of the Patapsco River be added to Anne Arundel County, but their petition on October 3 was disallowed by the Assembly. The record of this transaction is as follows:

"Post Meridie. Petition of the Inhabitants of the South Side of Patapscoe River being Returned to this Board with the vote of the house thereon, the Board doe Concurr therewith, The said Vote Runes in these words, Vizt. By the Assembly October 3d 1694. The within petition Read & Considered. Voted whether the South Side of potapscoe River be added to the County of Ann Arrundell or Remaine still as it is, Carried by the Majority of Votes to remaine still as it is. Cleborne Lomax Clk Assembly. (Assembly Proceedings, Sept. 20-Oct. 18, 1694. Md. Arch., 19: 69.)

In 1696 commissioners, however, were appointed to establish the boundary between the two counties. They presented their report to the succeeding legislature which, on April 3d of that year, passed Chapter 13 of the Acts of 1698, adopting a line described as follows:

"beginning att three marked Trees, viz. a white Oak, a red Oak, and a chesnutt tree, standing about a mile and a quarter to the Southward of Bodkin Creek on the West side of Chesapeak bay; the marked red Oak on the right hand for Baltimore County, the Chesnutt tree on the left hand for Ann Arundel, the white Oak in the middle they standing near a Marsh and a pond and running thence West until it Cross the Road from the Mountains of the mouth of Magatty River, to Richd Beards Mill; then Continuing Westward, with the said Road to William Hawkins Path, to two marked Trees the one for Ann Arundell County the other for Baltimore County, thence Continuing along the said road to Jon Locketts path to Two Trees for the end and purpose aforesaid then leaving the road by a Line drawn west to William Slades path, to two marked Trees as aforesd; thence continuing West between the

¹³ Proclamation of June 6, 1674.

draught of Magaty and Potapsco Rivers untill it come to a Mountain of White Stone rock still Continuing West to a road going to Potapsco, to Peter Bonds to two marked Trees as afd for the end and purpose as aforesaid thence Continuing West to the main Road to Potapsco fferry to two Marked Pines, standing near the ready Branch written att large on the North side of the said Trees (Baltimore County) on the South side (Ann Arundell County) from thence with a Line Drawn west to Elk Ridge Road, to two Marked Trees for the end and purposes aforesaid thence Continuing the same Course of W.N.W. to Putuxent river and so up the said River to the Extent thereof for the bounds of Baltimore county. . . . All that Tract of Land lying on the North side of the said Division lines &c to be in Baltimore County and all the Land, &c. on the South side thereof to the ancient Extent of Ann Arundell County to be in Ann Arundell County &c."

According to this line, few points of which can now be located exactly, this Act seems to have added somewhat to the territory of Baltimore County at the expense of its neighbor. The notable points on this boundary cannot now be determined with accuracy, but from the knowledge available of the different settlements at the time of the passage of the act it seems probable that the intention was to place the boundary along the divide between the Magothy and the Patapsco rivers as far as Elk Ridge, and thence westerly to the Patuxent in such a way as to include all of the settlements then made. This would make the line indefinite and would extend at that time just north of the present location of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Grants had just been given to large tracts in the vicinity of Savage and Guilford, and along Warfield's Ridge. The settlements along the Patapsco, which reached at this time to the vicinity of Hollofields, were apparently included within Baltimore County. This boundary, such as it was, apparently remained the northern limit of the county until 1726 when the General Assembly acted upon a petition similar to that of 1694, and passed on July 25 "An Act for uniting part of Baltimore County to Anne Arundel County," which runs as follows:

Whereas the several Inhabitants on the *South Side of Patapsco River* in Baltimore County, have, by their humble Petition to this present General Assembly set forth, That for many Years past, they have suffered great Inconveniences by the Distance of their Residence from the Court-house of their County, which is so scituate that even moderate Rains render it inaccessible; as thereby many Falls, as well as several Runs, which must be past, are utterly unfordable, which constantly subjects such of them as are obliged to attend the County-courts, to the Censure of such Court, and very often to grievous Fines:

And for as much as it is evidently made to appear to this present General Assembly, that the Petitioners, or such of them as then resided on the *South Side Patapsco River* as aforesaid, were formerly Part of *Anne Arundel County*; and that they, when *Baltimore County* was in its Infancy, were lopt off from *Anne Arundel County* and with no other intent than to bear a Part of the necessary Charge of the said *Baltimore County*, with the few Inhabitants that were then therein, which, though their Taxes were much increased thereby, they bore with Patience:

And forasmuch as great Part of the Land in *Anne Arundel County* is so far worn out, that several of the former Inhabitants thereof have of late Years removed into *Baltimore County*, for the Sake of the fresh Lands there: As also, that on Inspection 'tis found that when the now Inhabitants on the *South Side of Patapsco River* in *Baltimore County* aforesaid, are taken from that County, and made Part of *Anne Arundel County*, there will still remain 1791 Taxables as appears by the List of Taxables now returned from the County, which is a Number that far exceeds Those in four or five other counties. . . . Be it Enacted . . . That From and after the last Day of May which shall be in the year of our Lord January 7, 1727, the Land lying on the *South Side of Patapsco River* aforesaid, and contained within the Bounds following, *viz.* From the Head thereof, and from thence, bounding on the *south* side of the main Falls, being the Southernmost great Branch of the said River, and running as the said Branch runs, to the first main Fork of the said Falls, and other boundaries on the *South Side* of the said *Southernmost* Fork, Till a South course will intercept the Head of *Snowden's River*, and so down the said *Snowden's River*, 'till it meet with the now Extent of *Anne-Arundel County*, shall be, and for ever hereafter deemed as Part of *Anne-Arundel County*; . . .

The question of the boundary between *Anne Arundel* and *Calvert* counties again became a subject of controversy in 1777 when the eligibility of a Delegate was questioned on account of his place of residence. Fishing Creek at the time was accepted as the boundary by vote of the Delegates and an Act of Assembly was passed (1777, Chapter 7) appointing commissioners to ascertain and establish the division line and to report their proceedings to the next General Assembly. A quarter of a century later, in 1809, the question once more arose but the final controversy did not become settled until the second decade of the last century. In 1822 the Assembly passed the following:

" An Act to Ascertain and establish a divisional line between *Anne Arundel* and *Calvert* Counties.

Whereas the line of division between *Anne Arundel* and *Calvert* Counties is not well ascertained, by means whereof inconveniences have arisen, and in particular, divers persons, living near the borders of those counties, have not contributed anything toward the public expenses;

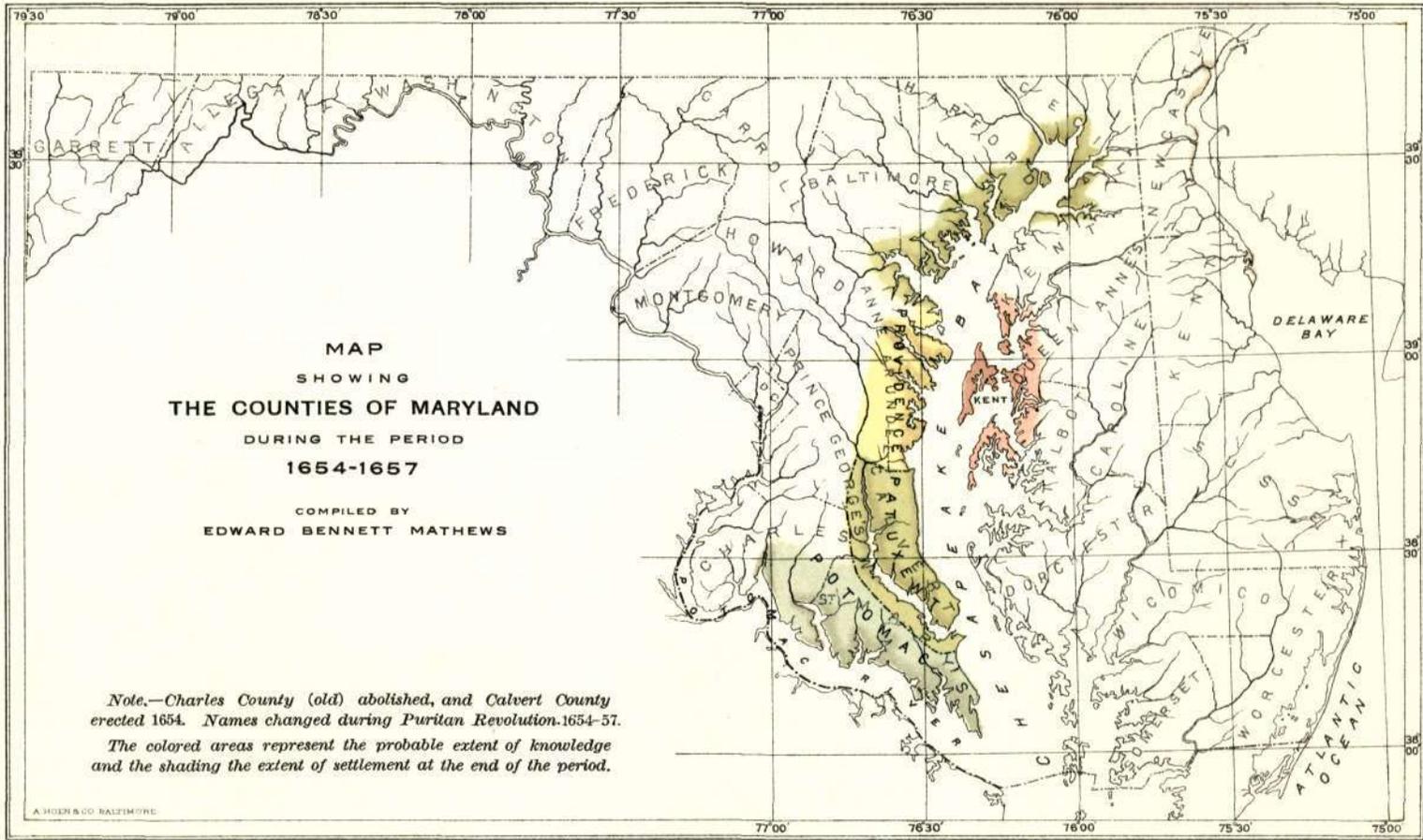
II. Be it therefore enacted, that for fixing and ascertaining the said divisional line, the following persons be and are empowered to act as commissioners, viz . . . which said commissioners or the major part of them, shall and are hereby authorized and required to meet at some place near the borders of said counties, and call before them, by summons to be issued by them, and directed to the sheriff of the County, all persons who may be deemed proper to give testimony concerning the ancient and reputed divisions of said counties; and the said commissioners, or the major part of them, are also hereby empowered to search the records of the general court, or any county court, for testimonials, to ascertain the division line aforesaid, . . . and the said commissioners, or the major part of them shall and they are hereby required to return their proceedings, together with the proofs whereon the same may be founded, to the next general assembly for their approbation, and that the same division, if found reasonable, may be there ratified and confirmed.

The commission appointed by this Act reported to the succeeding Legislature and were by it appointed commissioners to establish the divisional lines between the said counties. At this time they were instructed to begin

"at the mouth of the creek on the western side of the Chesapeake Bay, called and known by the name of Muddy Creek, lying and being on the south side of the land now owned and occupied by Samuel Owings, thence by and with the said creek to the head thereof, thence in a straight line to a chestnut tree on the south edge of Hall's Creek branch, marked with a black letter P. on the plain black line shaded yellow and green on the Plats laid down by the said commissioners under the authority of an act of the last session, thence to Q. at the south end of the line forming the eastern limit of the tract called Maidstone, thence with said line of Maidstone to the end thereof, and thence in the same direction until it strikes Lyons Creek, thence down the said creek to the river Patuxent."

This act was passed February 24, 1824, and constitutes Chapter 183 of the Laws of 1823. By it the commissioners were ordered to make out two plats with explanations which should plainly set forth and describe the beginning and end of each and every course, and show every boundary stone established. A copy of the plat and explanations was to be filed among the land records of each county.

Even these explicit directions seem to have given occasion for question regarding their construction so that during the December session of 1824 a supplemental act was introduced to explain that the terms Muddy or Red Lyon's Creek of 1823 meant the same as South or Muddy Creek



MAP
 SHOWING
THE COUNTIES OF MARYLAND
 DURING THE PERIOD
1654-1657

COMPILED BY
EDWARD BENNETT MATHEWS

Note.—Charles County (old) abolished, and Calvert County erected 1654. Names changed during Puritan Revolution. 1654-57. The colored areas represent the probable extent of knowledge and the shading the extent of settlement at the end of the period.

A. HOERN & CO. BALTIMORE

mentioned in the report of the commissioners to the Legislature of 1824. This act passed the Assembly on February 18, 1825.

One further change was made in the boundaries of Anne Arundel County by the Convention of 1851, which separated the already established Howard district, constituting it Howard County. The limits of this district were established by an Act of Assembly 1838, Chapter 22, which defines the boundary as follows:

"Beginning . . . at the intersection of the west shore of Deep Run with the southern shore of the Patapsco River, at or near Ellicott Furnace, and running southerly with Deep Run, until it reaches the Baltimore and Washington Rail Road [now the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad]; and thence with the said Rail Road and including the same until it reaches the southwestern line of Anne Arundel County on the Big Patuxent River."

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY ELECTION DISTRICTS.

- 1798 Ch. 115. County divided into 5 election districts.
 1799 Ch. 48. Confirms Acts of 1798 Ch. 115.
 1799 Ch. 50. Commission appointed to lay off county in 5 election districts.
 1809 Ch. 38. Excludes inhabitants of Annapolis from voting for Anne Arundel county delegates.
 1810 Ch. 49. Confirms Acts of 1809 Ch. 38.
 1816 Ch. 252. Annapolis taken from 2d election district to form 6th district.
 1820 Ch. 168. Line between 4th and 5th election districts changed as follows:
 "It shall begin at the bridge across the Patapsco Falls, near Ellicott's Mills, and run with and bind on the Cumberland turnpike road from said bridge to the 2d turnpike gate on said road, now erected in Howard's lane and from said turnpike gate in Howard's lane with the lane as heretofore established by law to the line of Prince George's County."
 1821 Ch. 123. Repeals Acts of 1817 Ch. 149 in so far as related to "the electors of the Senate of this State."
 1822 Ch. 16. Confirms Acts of 1821 Ch. 123.
 1822 Ch. 116. Commission appointed to divide 4th and 5th or only the 5th election districts into not exceeding 3 districts [making in all 6 districts].
 1822 Ch. 156. Polling place of the 2d district changed to Black Horse Tavern.
 1823 Ch. 58. Confirms Acts of 1822 Ch. 116.
 1824 Ch. 13. Polling place of 2d district changed to the Free school.
 1832 Ch. 63. Confirms Acts of 1831 Ch. 232.

- 1834 Ch. 186. Part of the 5th election district added to the 6th as follows:
 "Beginning at the first beginning line of the fifth and sixth election districts, at the river which divided Anne Arundel and Montgomery counties, near Triadelphia Factory, and running down with and binding on said river below Benjamin Scrivenor's farm, and then running up and binding on said big Branch, until it reaches a farm on which Samuel Straughan now lives, and thence with a straight line until it strikes a Branch on the west side of the said house and then up said Branch until it intersects the Roxbury Mill Road, leading to Porter's tavern where it will intersect the divisional line between the fifth and sixth election districts."
- 1836 Ch. 16. Division line between 3d and 4th election districts changed to run from Poulton's old tavern along public road to Donaldson's bridge on Patapsco and not to the lower ferry.
- 1838 Ch. 22. Erection of Howard District as a municipal jurisdiction.
- 1839 Ch. 49. Confirms Acts of 1838 Ch. 22.
- 1839 Ch. 104. Commission appointed to divide 1st district into 1st and 8th.
- 1840 Ch. 247. Polling place of 4th election district changed from Owen Cecil's to Joshua Watts'.
- 1843 Ch. 35. Polling place of 1st election district fixed at Owensville.
- 1843 Ch. 220. Polling place of 1st election district changed to "at or near the wind-mill, on the land of Bushrod W. Marriott."
- 1843 Ch. 298. Commissioners authorized to fix polling place for 2d election district.
- 1846 Ch. 326. Polling place of 1st election district changed to be "at or near store of Jacob W. Bird."
- 1849 Ch. 1. Polling place of 2d election district changed to Primary school house near Eli Lusby's.
- 1849 Ch. 73. Polling place of 4th election district changed to a place near Pumphrey's mill.
- 1853 Ch. 78. Commission appointed to erect an additional election district out the 3d and 4th election district.
- 1872 Ch. 163. County Commissioners authorized to divide election districts into election precincts.

BALTIMORE COUNTY.

The documents recording the original erection of Baltimore County have never been found among the archives of the State, and no evidence exists indicating whether its erection was due to a proclamation of the Lord Proprietary or his representative, or to some action on the part of the General Assembly. It has commonly been accepted that the county came into being in 1659. There are no evidences of its existence prior

to this date, and subsequent to it references are frequent. At this time there were St. Mary's, Calvert, and Anne Arundel and Charles counties on the Western Shore, and Kent County on the Eastern. The scattered inhabitants on either side of the bay from the Patapsco and Sassafras rivers had no nearby county seat in which to transact their business.

The earliest settlements within the territory of the original Baltimore County were probably those on Palmer's Island at the mouth of the Susquehanna River where Claiborne and his followers had established trading settlements as early as 1627-28. In 1652 in the treaty between the Susquehanna Indians and the Marylanders the right of settlement had been granted as far north as this point. Settlements subsequent to that of Claiborne were few and scattered until after the conclusion of this treaty, but in the decades between 1660 and 1680 the development of the territory around the shores of the head of the Bay was rapid, much of it taking place under the leadership of Augustine Herrman, who became the leading man of the region. Herrman was granted a letter of denization as early as 1660 and during succeeding years was a justice of Baltimore County. Settlements were formed at this time along the shores of Northeast creek and the estuaries off of Elk River and occasionally tracts were taken up along the shores of what is now Harford County. The center of population for the new county of Baltimore lay about the head of the Bay outside of the territory now included within the present county of the same name.

As early as 1661 the court of Baltimore County was held at Captain Howell's, near Howell's Point, below the mouth of the Sassafras River. A few years later, in 1664, Baltimore County court met at Carpenter's Point on the Northeast River and from 1674 to 1768 the county seat of Baltimore was within the present confines of Harford County. It was not until after the election of 1768 that the county seat was situated within the territory of the present Baltimore County.

Such widely scattered sites for the holding of the county court naturally leads to the question as to what were the original limits of Baltimore County. No terms are given in the records prior to the proclamation of 1674 erecting Cecil County. It is therefore necessary to

examine the casual references and early records of land grants, etc., to determine the original limits. From these it appears now well established that Baltimore County was at first intended to include all the northern portion of Maryland, situated on either side of Chesapeake Bay from the Patapsco on the west to the Chester River on the east, and northward as far as the northern bounds of the province. This broad region was at the time almost entirely covered with forests and the few settlements, limited almost exclusively to the waterways, were not as widely separated as they would now appear to be. The unexplored forests at their backs and the easily traversed waterways in their midst tended to give a feeling of compactness and relative security to these otherwise isolated settlements. The jurisdiction of Baltimore County apparently covered the south shore of the Sassafras and the eastern part of the Chester River from a point near the eastern limits of Talbot at that time. It thus included the present site of Chestertown and the major portion of Kent County. It apparently did not include the few settlements along Eastern Neck which were under the jurisdiction of Kent County.

During the decade and a half from the establishment of Baltimore County to the separation of Cecil County there gradually arose a feeling of distinction between the territory on the eastern and western sides of the Bay, the former being called East Baltimore County from time to time. This feeling, stimulated no doubt by the influence of Augustine Herrman, resulted in June, 1674, in a proclamation by Charles Calvert, Captain-General of the province, announcing that all the territory

“from the mouth of the Susquehanna River and so downe the easterne side of Chesapeake Bay to Swan point and from thence to Hell point and so up Chester River to the head thereof is hereby erected into a County and called by the name Cecill County.”

A few days later, on the 19th of June, a second proclamation was issued stating that

“upon further consideration . . . it is thought most necessary that so much of the Easterne side as was formerly added to Kent County doe still remaine and belong to the said County as afore.”

No record has been found to explain either the time or the territory

of the enlargement of Kent County here mentioned, but it seems probable that the area was only that about the settlements between Swan's Point and Langford Bay.

After the separation of Cecil County in 1674 the county seat of Baltimore County was established on Bush River at old Baltimore Town, where it remained until 1712, when it was removed to Joppa, whence it was again removed in 1768 to the present Baltimore City. The gradual change to the westward of the county seat was the result of the increasing population along the Patapsco River, and northward from the Bay shore until at the last date given the populations of the upper and lower portions of Baltimore County were approximately equal. The removal of the county seat occasioned considerable feeling between the two portions of the county. The inhabitants of the upper or eastern portion soon expressed a desire for a separation from their successful rivals on the west. Accordingly in 1773 the General Assembly passed an Act decreeing

"that after the second of March next all that part of Baltimore county which is included within the bounds following, to wit: Beginning at the mouth of the little falls of the Gunpowder river, and running with the said falls to the fountain head, and from thence north to the temporary line of this province, and thence with the temporary line to the Susquehanna river, thence with Susquehanna to Chesapeake bay, and thence with the said bay, including Spesitic and Pool's islands, to the mouth of Gunpowder river to the beginning aforesaid shall be and is hereby erected into a new county, by the name of Harford county."

The introduction of the "temporary line" as a term in the boundary of the newly erected county is a curious anachronism. The "temporary line" was a line run *ex parte* by the Pennsylvanians in 1739, and was the only boundary recognized between Maryland and Pennsylvania on the west side of the Susquehanna from the date of its location until the work of Mason and Dixon. At the time when the law erecting Harford County was enacted, however, the work of Mason and Dixon had been completed, the present boundary line run and the well-known stones set in position, the surveyors having completed their allotted work five years before. Moreover, their work had been accepted by the proprietors of Pennsylvania and Maryland and approved by the Lord High Chan-

cellor of England, under whose supervision it had been done. The northern boundary of the province was as well determined in 1773 as it is to-day, but the inhabitants who had inherited for generations the dispute between the adjoining territories seemed unable to give up the contest. The "temporary line" was $15\frac{1}{4}$ miles south of the latitude of Philadelphia or in other words, a little north of the present boundary of the State.

The western limits of Baltimore County were probably determined at the time of its erection with respect to the older Anne Arundel County, from which it was separated, but the first statement on record is contained in the proclamation of 1674 which states that the boundary should be "the south side of Patapsco River, and from the highest plantations on that side of the river, due south two miles into the woods." Somewhat later the settlements of Baltimore County are known to be as far up the Patapsco River as Hollofields, and it was probably intended that the county should include the inhabitants on both sides of the river to its mouth. In 1674 there was a practically unsettled region between the Magothy and the Patapsco. As the population increased and the intervening lands were taken up the inhabitants on the land between these two rivers came closer together and in 1698 it became necessary to more sharply define the boundary. This was done by the passage of Chapter 13 of the Acts of 1698, which is given in some detail in the discussion of Anne Arundel County. According to the terms there laid down the boundary appears to have followed the divide between the Magothy and the Patapsco but the local points cannot now be recognized. The act may have added a trifle to Baltimore County territory but the underlying thought seems to have been the same as that implied in the proclamation of 1674, viz., that the inhabitants along the Patapsco (who were more closely allied with the original settlers of Maryland) should be separated from the frontiersmen of the Severn River settlement. In 1726 a law was, however, passed restoring to Anne Arundel County after

"January 7, 1727, the Land lying on the *South* side of *Patapsco* River and contained within the bounds following, viz. From the mouth of the said

Patapsco river, with said river to the head thereof, and from thence, bounding on the *south* side of the main falls, being the Southernmost great branch of the said river, and running as the said branch runs to the first main fork of the said falls, and then bounding on the *South Side* of the said *Southernmost Fork*, Till a South course will intercept the Head of *Snowden's River*, and so down the said *Snowden's River*, 'till it meet with the now Extent of Anne-Arundel County."

The next change in the western limits of Baltimore County was due to the erection of Frederick County in 1748. According to the terms of this act¹⁴ Frederick County was to embrace all of the territory to the west of Baltimore, Anne Arundel, and Prince George's counties. Settlers had gradually worked their way westward along the Patapsco and Potomac rivers and northward along the Monocacy into the fertile Frederick valley. The intermediate area of the more mountainous Parr's Ridge was settled more slowly. The actual position of the line between Frederick and Baltimore counties was not determined until a few years later, when the General Assembly passed an act¹⁵ defining the boundaries as follows:

"Beginning at a spring called Parr's spring, and running from thence N 35° E to a bounded white oak standing on the west side of a waggon road called John Digges's road, about a mile above the place called the Burnt-house Woods; and running thence up the said road to a bounded white oak, standing on the east side thereof, at the head of a draught of Sam's creek; thence N. 55° E. to a Spanish oak standing on a ridge near William Robert's, and opposite to the head of a branch called the Beaver-Dam; and running thence N. 20° E. to the temporary line between the provinces of Maryland and Pennsylvania, being near the head of a draught called Conewago, at a rocky hill called Rattle Snake Hill."

A few of these points may be recognized at present but some of them are in doubt. Early maps like that of Alexander in 1840 and the less perfect B. & O. R. R. survey maps of an earlier date show the boundary to pass along the divide between the Monocacy and Patapsco to Westminster, and thence northeasterly to the limits of the State. This line remained in force from 1750 until 1836, when the boundaries of Carroll County were defined. A comparison of the terms of chapter 13 of the laws of 1750 and chapter 22 of the laws of 1838 are of interest in that the latter calls for a line running N 17° E which would be parallel to a

¹⁴ Acts of 1748, Chapter 15. ¹⁵ Acts of 1750, Chapter 13.

line defined in the former as N 20° E. The discrepancy between the two descriptions may be explained by a difference in variation of the needle between the two dates, or more exactly by the fact that the earlier line was doubtless run by magnetic variation of 2° 55' west, which would have made the line very nearly 17° E of the true meridian.

The erection of Carroll County took from Baltimore County a portion of its northwestern territory including all of the land north of the Patapsco River lying west of the following boundary, which was defined as the eastern boundary of Carroll County:

“from thence [the intersection of the north and main branches of the Patapsco River] running up with the said North branch of said river, but excluding the same, until it reaches the stone bridge where the Baltimore and Reisterstown turnpike road crosses said branch of said river, generally known as the Falls bridge, and thence running north, seventeen degrees east, parallel with the last line, dividing Baltimore and Frederick counties, to the Pennsylvania line,”

The only other modifications of the territory of Baltimore County have arisen from the erection of Baltimore City into a separate political unit and the subsequent additions to it.

BALTIMORE COUNTY ELECTION DISTRICTS.

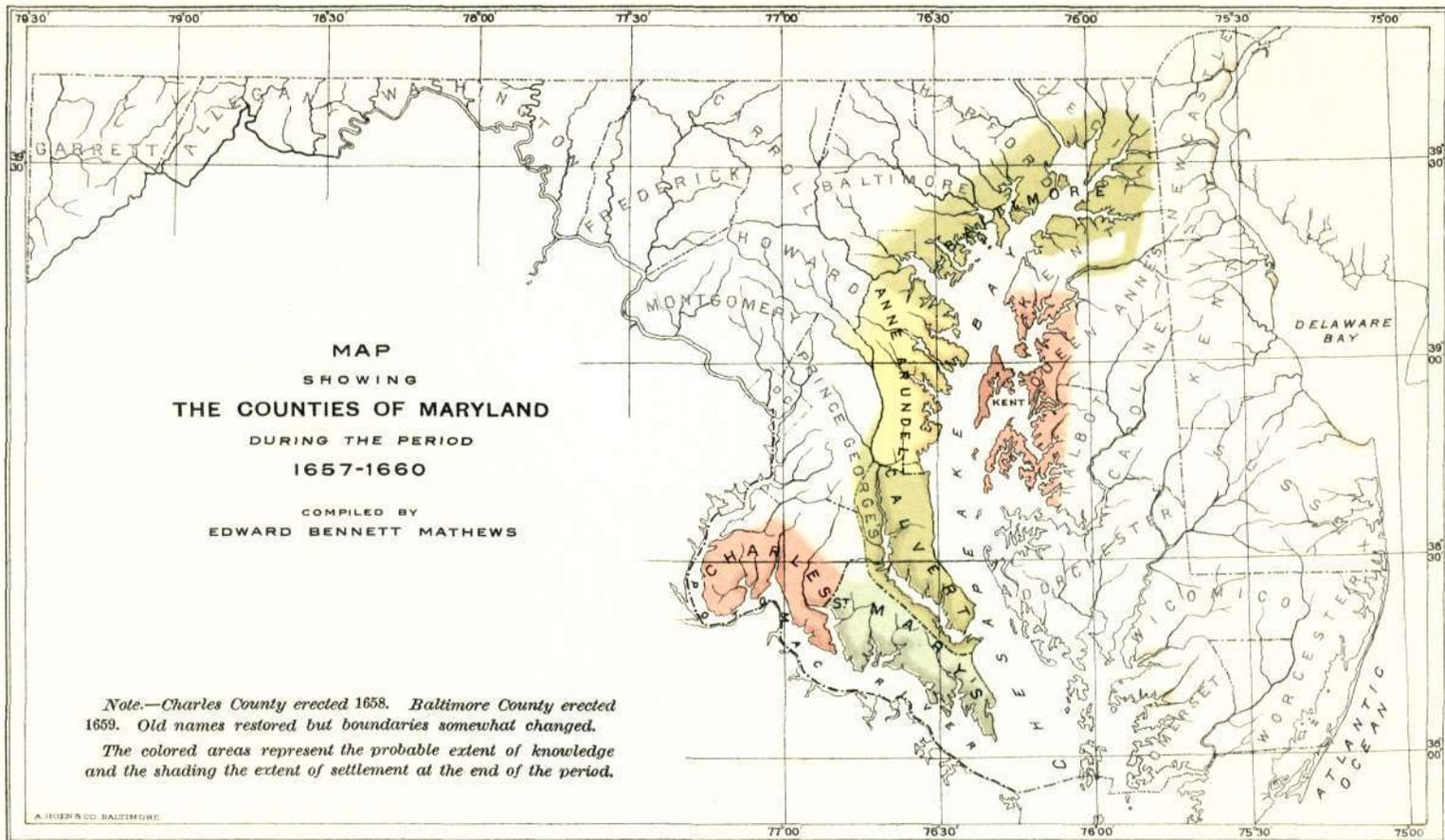
- 1798 Ch. 115. County divided into 7 election districts.
 1799 Ch. 48. Confirms Acts of 1798 Ch. 115.
 1799 Ch. 50. Commission appointed to divide county into 7 election districts.
 1811 Ch. 6. Polling place of 5th election district changed from old tavern of N. Merryman to new tavern of N. Merryman.
 1821 Ch. 38. County divided into 12 districts exclusive of Baltimore City.
 1822 Ch. 14. Confirms Acts of 1821 Ch. 38.
 1823 Ch. 65. Lines of 4th election district changed to be as follows:
 “beginning at Cockey’s mill and running with the public road to the Deer Park road, then down the Deer Park road to the top of the Fall’s hill, then with the road through Edmund H. Stockdale’s meadow by the widow Beasmans to Morgan’s Run, at Thomas Beasman’s, then up said run to Jordan’s mill, thence with said run to the head of Banhart’s meadow, then up Hawkin’s branch to captain Gorsuch’s meadow, then up John Murray’s spring branch to its source, then with a straight line to the Frederick County line, near Symon Kylers, to intersect the present line of the fourth election district, thence with the present location of the said district to the beginning.”

MAP
SHOWING
THE COUNTIES OF MARYLAND
DURING THE PERIOD
1657-1660

COMPILED BY
EDWARD BENNETT MATHEWS

Note.—Charles County erected 1658. Baltimore County erected 1659. Old names restored but boundaries somewhat changed. The colored areas represent the probable extent of knowledge and the shading the extent of settlement at the end of the period.

A. HOEN & CO. BALTIMORE



- 1823 Ch. 153. Commission appointed to look over 9th and 10th election districts and to change the same if thought desirable.
- 1824 Ch. 165. New commission appointed with suggestions as to their work.
- 1824 Ch. 170. Commission appointed to select a new polling place for the 4th election district.
- 1825 Ch. 139. Lines of 11th election district to be as follows:
"Beginning at the Rockford near Archibald Gittings' farm and running up and binding on the Little Falls of the Gunpowder, to Culloms' ford, near the widow Jarretts. thence with the road to Samuel Webb's tavern, thence with the road down the Great Falls of Gunpowder to Cromwell's bridge, thence with the old Harford road, until it intersects the Baltimore and Harford turnpike road, thence with the said turnpike road to the place of beginning."
- 1826 Ch. 133. Assembly, not Constitution, to determine number of election districts from time to time.
- 1831 Ch. 232. Erects an additional election district out of parts of 6th and 9th districts.
- 1832 Ch. 63. Confirms Acts of 1831 Ch. 232.
- 1834 Ch. 121. Changes line of 8th election district adding to the 7th that part:
"beginning at E. Rider's Mill, on the present divisional line of said district, running North to the ninth milestone on the York turnpike, thence to Ridgeley's furnace road; where it will intersect the said divisional line."
- 1835 Ch. 125. Changes polling place of 1st election district to tavern near 7th milestone on Frederick turnpike.
- 1835 Ch. 209. Commission appointed to review 6th election district and to lay out a 14th election district. Returned to Baltimore County Court. Manchester polling place for the sixth district. Cox's Town polling place for 14th.
- 1835 Ch. 256. An act for the division of Baltimore and Frederick Counties, and for the erecting of a new one by the name of Carroll, etc. See Carroll County.
- 1836 Ch. 19. Confirms Acts of 1835 Ch. 256.
- 1836 Ch. 77. An Act to provide for taking the sense of the People of Baltimore County on the propriety of separating [sic] said county from the city of Baltimore.
- 1836 Ch. 162. All left of the 6th election district beginning at intersection of north line and line of 5th district, and running with said road until it intersects . . . the black horse road, and running with said road until it intersects the north line of the fifth election district, and that all the remainder of the sixth election district [not in Carroll] be part of the 13th.

- 1838 Ch. 9. Additional election districts to be laid off by the commissioners from 1st, 2d, 5th and 7th.
1st Ellicott Mills, 2d Randalls Town, 3d Pikesville, 4th Reisterstown, 5th White House, 6th Middletown, 7th Wiseburg, 8th Cockey's, 9th Govans, 10th Slade, 11th King's, 12th Neck.
- 1838 Ch. 33. Commissioners authorized to locate polling place for 11th election district.
- 1840 Ch. 10. Commissioners appointed to survey and mark the boundary of the Carroll County line established by Acts of 1835 Ch. 256.
- 1840 Ch. 137. Enlarges the 5th election district by extending southwest line as follows:
"Commencing at the premises of Elizabeth Ambursee's, running to the Dover school house; thence to the Baptist Church, by the county road; thence to Evan Davis' house, and from thence to Richard Stansbury's, making the county road the line.
- 1842 Ch. 158. Commissioners authorized to fix polling place of 5th election district.
- 1844 Ch. 148. Voters to decide on polling place for 11th election district.
- 1852 Ch. 107. Line between 3d and 9th election district changed to run as follows:
"Baltimore and Susquehanna railroad shall form the division line between the third and ninth election districts, from the city limits to the first intersection of the above railroad, with the Falls turnpike road, and that all residents east of said rail road from the city limits northward to said intersection, shall be considered as belonging to the ninth election district of Baltimore county, instead of the third as heretofore."
- 1852 Ch. 368. County Commissioners authorized to divide county into sixteen election districts before January 1, 1853.
- 1853 Ch. 430. County Commissioners authorized and required to create an additional election district out of the first district.
- 1856 Ch. 301. Changes line between 1st and 2d election districts to run as follows:
"Beginning at the Powhatan Factory, running to the Franklin Turnpike road and then on the south side of Dogwood road to Ben's Run, and then following the said run to Patapsco Falls."
- 1860 Ch. 337. Baltimore County divided into 13 election districts according to the lines then in vogue.
- 1860 Ch. 337. Electors to choose polling place for the 11th district.
- 1862 Ch. 51. Polling place of the 5th election district changed to house of David Wilhelm on Falls Road.

- 1864 Ch. 47. Polling place of 3d election district changed to the Six Mile House on the Hookerstown road.
- 1868 Ch. 28. Changes dividing line between 3d and 4th election districts of Baltimore County.
- “Whereas said Old Church Road having been vacated and closed and a new road opened in lieu thereof, therefore, Be it enacted . . . that so much of the dividing line between said districts as run with said Old Church Road, beginning at a point where said road crosses the Western Maryland Railroad, near William Owings's Lower Mill (now Painter's Mill) and running to the Garrison Church, be and the same is hereby changed, and the north side of the said new road made the dividing line between said districts, to wit: Beginning at the point where the north side of said old road crosses said Western Maryland Railroad, and running thence with the north side of said new road to the Reisterstown Turnpike Road; thence down said turnpike road to Shelley's Carpenter Shop, on the corner of said turnpike and a new road leading to the Garrison Church; running thence bounding on the north side of said new road to the intersection of another road by said Garrison Church.”
- 1868 Ch. 433. Divides election districts into precincts as follows:
1st election district into 2 election precincts.
3d election district into 3 election precincts.
9th election district into 3 election precincts.
11th election district into 2 election precincts.
12th election district into 3 election precincts.
- 1870 Ch. 138. Divides 7th election district into 2 precincts.
- 1870 Ch. 429. Repeals and re-enacts 1868 Ch. 433.
- 1876 Ch. 311. 3d election district divided into 3 election precincts with bounds different from those of Acts of 1870 Ch. 429.
- 1878 Ch. 317. Divides the 8th election district into two precincts.
- 1880 Ch. 405. Changes line of 7th election district to run as follows:
“all that part of the sixth election district of Baltimore county, lying easterly and north-easterly of the Northern Central Railroad, and between said railroad and the present line of said sixth election district and the seventh election district of said county, shall be, and is hereby made a part of said seventh election district, and that said Northern Central Railroad, from the point where it crosses the Maryland and Pennsylvania line to the point at which it crosses Bee Tree Run, nearest the point at which said Bee Tree Run empties into a branch of the Great Gunpowder Falls or river, south of Bently Springs station on said Northern Central railroad, shall be, and is hereby made the dividing line between said sixth and seventh election district.”

- 1898 Ch. 189. Divides 12th election district into 3 election districts to be known as 12th, 14th, and 15th. Bounds almost the same as in Acts of 1906 Ch. 251 except that line was placed on *south* side of Philadelphia road.
- 1900 Ch. 53. Divides 2d precinct of 9th election district into 2 precincts to be known as the 2d and 5th election precincts.
- 1900 Ch. 244. Divides 1st precinct of 14th election district into 2 precincts called the 1st and 3d election precincts.
- 1902 Ch. 550. Changes lines between 4th precinct of 9th election district and 2d precinct of 8th election district to run as follows:
 "Beginning at the intersection of the Roland run and the Joppa road, and running easterly to the intersection of the county road running from Sherwood to Lutherville, and following the bed of said county road to the branch or stream crossing said road near Lutherville, and following the course of said stream southwesterly to the place of beginning."
- 1904 Ch. 182. Changes boundary lines between the 1st and 3d election districts to run as follows:
 "Beginning for the same at the intersection of the westernmost boundary of the City of Baltimore with the centre of Gwynn's Falls and running thence northerly with said westernmost line of the City of Baltimore to the centre of the Baltimore and Liberty Turnpike, thence with the centre of said turnpike to the intersection of said turnpike with Gwynn Oak avenue, thence with the centre of Gwynn Oak avenue to the centre of Gwynn's Falls, and running thence with the centre of Gwynn's Falls as said boundary line now runs to the easternmost boundary line of the Second Election District of Baltimore County."
- 1906 Ch. 106. Line between 1st and 13th election districts changed to run as follows:
 "Beginning for the same at the intersection of the southern boundary line of Baltimore city with the south side of Wilkens avenue, as now laid out and existing, and running thence westerly with the south side of Wilkens avenue to the point at which the present boundary line, going southwest, leaves said Wilkens avenue, and thence following said line, as it now exists, to the Patapsco river."
- 1906 Ch. 547. Establishes the boundary line between Baltimore and Harford counties as follows:
 "Beginning at a point in the present boundary line between said counties at the mouth of the Gunpowder river, and running thence up said river along the present boundary line to the south end of the gut or channel between Edel's Island No. 1 and Edel's Island No. 2, as described in the two several patents from the State of Maryland to Samuel T. Edel, Jr., and others, both bearing the date the

2d day of October, 1903; thence up said gut or channel to the north end thereof, and leaving the same, up the Gunpowder river to the place of beginning, as defined in Section 2 of Chapter 6 of the Acts of 1773, entitled an Act for the division of Baltimore county and for erecting a new one by the name of Harford.

1906 Ch. 251. Divides 12th election district into 12th, 14th, and 15th election districts as follows:

"Beginning for the same at the intersection of the eastern limits of Baltimore city, at the north side of the Philadelphia road, and running thence in a northeasterly direction along the north side of said Philadelphia road to the corner formed by the intersection of the north side of the Philadelphia road and the east side of the North Point road, if extended across said Philadelphia road; thence along the east side of said North Point road, in a southeasterly direction, to the private right of way leading into Keller's pavilion and park, near what is known as Long's battle ground house; thence in a line due south to the nearest point at the head of Bear creek; thence in a southerly direction along the center of said creek to the Patapsco river; thence along the northern shores of said river to the eastern limits of Baltimore city, and thence northerly along the eastern limits of Baltimore city to the place of beginning; and that all that portion of Baltimore county included within the lines and boundaries hereinbefore mentioned in this section shall be known and designated as the Twelfth Election District of Baltimore county. . . .

"beginning for the same at the eastern limit of Baltimore city in the center of Baltimore and Harford Turnpike road, and running thence along the center of said turnpike road to the White Marsh run, thence along the center of said White Marsh run to north side of the Philadelphia road; thence in a southwesterly direction along the north side of the Philadelphia road to the intersection of the Black River Neck road and said Philadelphia road; thence in a southerly direction across said Philadelphia road to the south side thereof; thence in a southwesterly direction along the south side of said Philadelphia road to the intersection of said Philadelphia road and the North Point road; thence in a northerly direction across said Philadelphia road to the north side thereof; thence in a southwesterly direction binding on the north side Philadelphia road to the eastern limits of Baltimore city; thence northerly along the eastern limits of Baltimore city to the place of beginning and that all that portion of Baltimore county included within the lines and boundaries hereinbefore mentioned in this section shall be

known and designated as the Fourteenth Election District of Baltimore county.

. . . . "beginning for the same at the intersection of the north side of the Philadelphia road and the center of White Marsh run, and running thence along the center of White Marsh run to Bird river; thence along the shores and inlets of Bird river to the Gunpowder river; thence along the shores and inlets of the Gunpowder river and along the shores and inlets of Salt Peter creek and Chesapeake bay to Middle river; thence along the shores and inlets of Middle river to Chesapeake bay and Back river; thence along the shores and inlets of Back river to Chesapeake bay and to the Patapsco river; thence along the shores and inlets of the Patapsco river to the center of Bear creek; thence along the center of Bear creek and along one of the headings of said creek to a point nearest the point of intersection of the North Point road and a private right of way leading to Keller's pavilion and park, and near what is known as Long's Battle Ground House; thence along the east side of said North Point road, in a northerly direction, to the south side of the Philadelphia road; thence along the south side of the Philadelphia road to the intersection of the south side of the Philadelphia road and the Back River Neck road to the north side thereof; thence along the north side of Philadelphia road to the place of beginning; and that all that portion of Baltimore county in this section described, being all that portion of the Twelfth Election District of Baltimore county, as formerly constituted, which is not included within the Twelfth and Fourteenth Election Districts of Baltimore county as hereby constituted, shall be known and designated as the Fifteenth Election District of Baltimore county."

CALVERT COUNTY.

The first mention of Calvert County occurred in July, 1654, when the Council decided, in accordance with the instructions received from the Lord Proprietor to

"Erect make and appoint both sides of Patuxent River into one County by the name Calvert County Bounded on the South Side with Pynehill River or Creeke to the head thereof and from thence through the woods to the head of Patuxent River being the Northerly bounds of St Maries County, and bounded on the North Side with the Creeke upon the Western Side of Chesepeacke Bay called the herring Creeke and from thence through the woods to the head of Putuxent River being the Southerly bound of Annarundell County."

Prior to this time the territory included within the Calvert County thus outlined had been embraced within the limits of St. Mary's, old Charles, and Patuxent counties, and part of that then included is now within the jurisdiction of St. Mary's, Charles, Prince George's, and Anne Arundel counties. The fact that part of old Charles County, which had been erected the same year as Anne Arundel County, constitutes part of Calvert County, led to discussion years later as to the relative place of Anne Arundel and Calvert counties on the roll call of the House of Delegates. It was shown that Anne Arundel County was erected by a law passed April 29, 1650 while old Charles County was erected by order of the Governor on the 21st of November following. It was therefore decided in 1671 that Anne Arundel County should have precedence. During the summer of 1654 old Charles County was changed to Calvert County without change of boundaries. In October following, as a result of the Protestant revolution it was decided to eliminate the name of Calvert and accordingly the Assembly enacted

"that Patuxent be Erected into a County the bounds thereof to be from the South Side of Mr Maishes Creek Commonly called oyster Creek Extending downe the Bay including all the familyes and Lands on the South Side of the said Creeke includeing all the Clifts with the North and South Side of Patuxent River with all the Creekes thereunto belonging and shall be Called as it is Patuxent County."

The terms of this temporary boundary became very important in the contest of 1824 when the boundary line between Anne Arundel and Calvert counties was in dispute. The name of Calvert County was restored in 1658 when the government of the Province became again established in the hands of Calvert's representatives.

It was apparently about this time, when the present Charles County was erected, that Calvert County lost control of the land on the south and west shores of the Patuxent. The exact limits of Charles County when first established by Governor Fendall are not known, the first clear statement being found in "an act for the Division for the Regulating Severall Countys" passed May 22, 1695. At this time Calvert County was not regarded as including part of the southern shore.

The northern boundary of Calvert County separating it from Anne

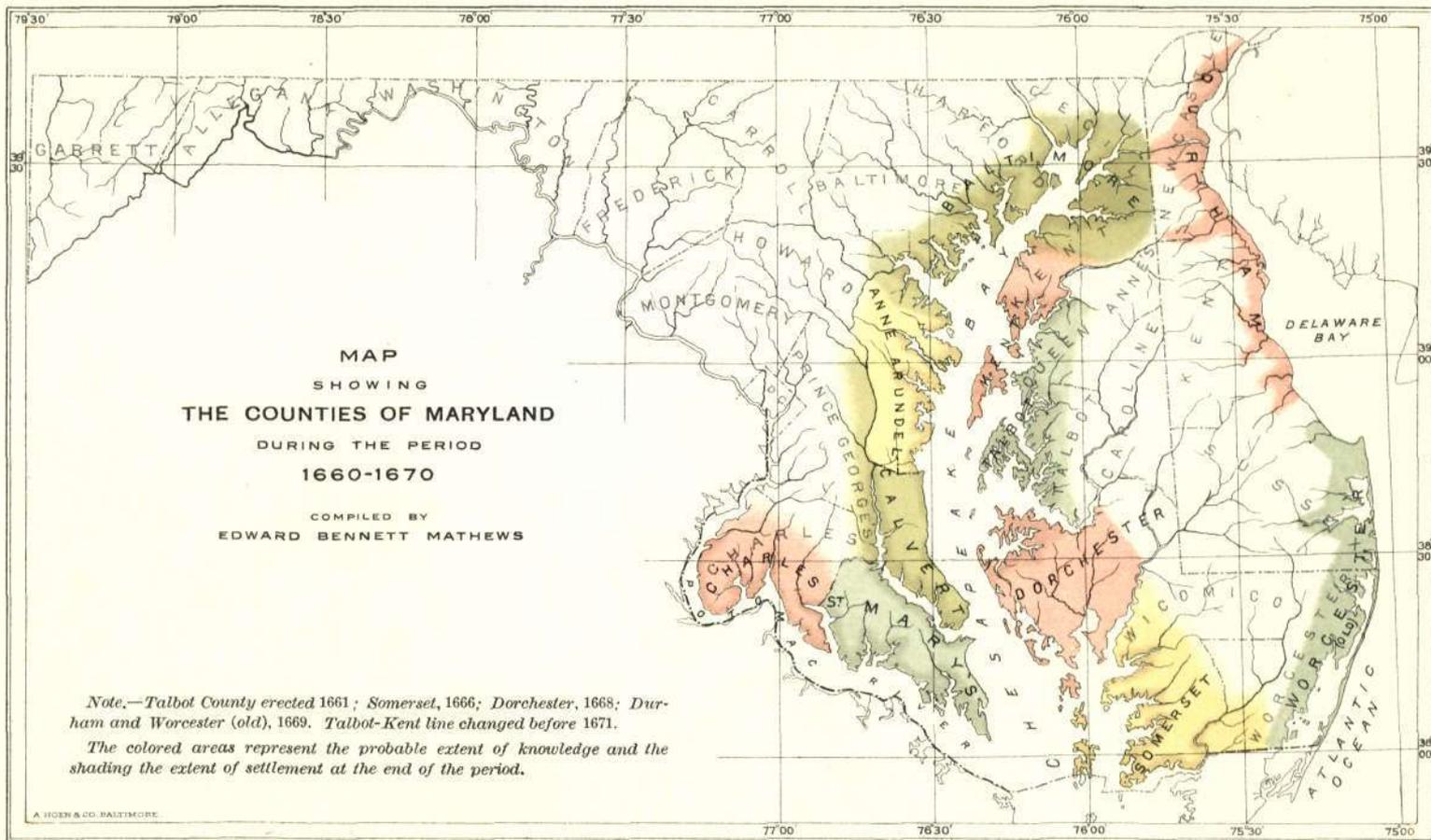
Arundel County became the subject of serious controversy during the years 1820 to 1826 as persons living along the border failed to contribute to the expenses of either county on the plea that the boundary was not known. To overcome this difficulty an act was passed in 1822 (Acts of 1822, Ch. 109) to ascertain and establish a division line between the two counties. Commissioners were appointed to examine the inhabitants along the line and their views regarding its location, and also to search the records of the general and county courts to ascertain if possible what had been the original divisional line. Their report, which was returned to the General Assembly of the following year, led to the passage of a law authorizing them to plant large and sufficient boundary stones at the beginning and termination of every course or line between the said counties

“beginning for the same at the mouth of a creek on the western side of the Chesapeake bay, called and known by the name of Muddy Creek or Red Lyon’s Creek, lying and being on the south side of the land now owned and occupied by Samuel Owings, thence by and with the said creek to the head thereof, thence in a straight line to a chesnut tree on the south edge of Hall’s Creek branch, marked with the black letter P. on the plain black line shaded yellow and green on the Plats laid down by the said commissioners under the authority of an act of the last session, thence to Q. at the south end of the line forming the eastern limit of the tract of land called Maidstone, thence with said line of Maidstone to the end thereof, and thence in the same direction until it strikes Lyons Creek, thence down the said creek to the river Patuxent.”

Plats of the territory showing the location of every boundary stone were to be filed among the land records of the respective counties. A year later on account of certain doubts regarding the construction of this law a supplemental law was passed to the effect

“That the said divisional lines between Anne Arundel and Calvert counties, shall begin on the south side of Samuel Owings’s house, at the mouth of a creek called in the act to which this is a supplement, Muddy creek or Red Lyon’s creek, which said creek shall be taken and understood to mean the same creek stated by the commissioners appointed by the act of the last session to ascertain the divisional lines between the said counties in their report to the legislature at its present session, to be known by the name of South creek or Muddy creek, and running by and with said creek to the head thereof, thence as directed by the act to which this is a supplement.”

Calvert County, like Charles County, has suffered less change and cur-



tailment in its territorial limits than any county erected during the seventeenth century.

CALVERT COUNTY ELECTION DISTRICTS.

- 1798 Ch. 115. County divided into 3 election districts.
- 1799 Ch. 48. Confirms Acts of 1798 Ch. 115.
- 1799 Ch. 50. Commissioners appointed for laying out districts.
- 1872 Ch. 77. County Commissioners authorized to redistrict the county or increase the election precincts.

CAROLINE COUNTY.

Caroline County, although erected prior to the Revolutionary War, was one of the later counties on the Eastern Shore in its settlement. Early pioneers had worked their way up the shores of the Choptank and Tuckahoe Creek many years before it was deemed necessary to have a new county. The uncertainty as to the eastern boundary of the Province, and the consequent doubt of the validity of titles granted, restrained the inhabitants from devoting themselves to the clearing and improving of tracts within the disputed territory. By 1750, however, the boundary line between the province of Maryland and the Three Lower Counties on Delaware had been settled at least on paper, and attempts had been made to start the southern transpeninsular line which should ultimately determine the boundary. Ten years later a broad vista was cut through the forests along the probable location of the boundary and settlements were encouraged by the increased security felt in the titles to the grants which were offered by the Maryland proprietary.

During the session of 1773 the question of erecting a new county for facilitating the transaction of business in this newly-opened country was considered and the General Assembly on November 16 of that year passed the following Act:

“Whereas a considerable body of the inhabitants of Dorchester and Queen Anne’s counties, by their petition to this general assembly, have prayed, that an act may be passed for a division of the said counties, and for erecting a new one out of parts thereof: And whereas it appears to this general assembly, that the erecting of a new county out of such parts of Dorchester and Queen-Anne’s counties will conduce greatly to the ease and convenience of the people thereof;

II *Be it therefore enacted, by the right honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the advice and consent of his Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the authority of the same, That after the Monday after the second Tuesday in March next such parts of the aforesaid two counties of Dorchester and Queen Anne's as are contained within the bounds and limits following, to wit: Beginning at a point on the north side of the mouth of Hunting creek, in Dorchester county, and from thence running up and with the said creek to the main road at James Murray's mill, thence with that road by Saint-Mary's White Chapel parish church to the north-west fork bridge, thence with the main road (that leads to Cannon's ferry) to Nanticoke river, thence with the said river to and with the exterior limits of the aforesaid county of Dorchester to the exterior limits of Queen Anne's county thence with the limits of Queen Anne's county to intersect the main road that leads from the Beaver-dam causeway to Doyertown, in Kent county, upon Delaware, thence with the said road to the Long marsh, thence with the said marsh and stream of the branch of Tuckahoe creek to Tuckahoe bridge thence with the said creek to Great Choptank river, and with the said river to the first beginning at the mouth of Hunting creek, shall be and is hereby erected into a new county by the name of Caroline county."*

According to the boundaries laid down by this law that portion of Caroline County east of the Choptank River had always been in Dorchester County from the date of its settlement. On the other hand, the tract of land between the Choptank and Tuckahoe which was taken from Queen Anne's County, had formerly, in part at least, been a portion of Talbot County, although prior to 1706 when it was transferred from Talbot to Queen Anne's, few settlements had been made.

CAROLINE COUNTY ELECTION DISTRICTS.

- 1798 Ch. 115. County divided into 3 election districts.
 1799 Ch. 48. Confirms Acts of 1798 Ch. 115.
 1799 Ch. 50. Commission appointed to divide county into 3 election districts.
 1805 Ch. 97. Polling place of 3d election district at "The Walnut Trees."
 1816 Ch. 11. Polling place of 3d election district changed to "Upper Hunting Creek where the elections were formerly held in said district."
 1825 Ch. 47. Line between 1st and 2d election districts changed to run as follows:
 "Beginning on the east side of Choptank river, at the mouth of Frampton's mill branch, thence running up said branch, and binding therewith, until it comes to a notable place on said branch, commonly called and known by the name of Rackoon Trapp, thence by a straight line to a methodist meeting house commonly called Lee's meeting

house, which stands on or near the main road leading from Denton to Whiteleysburgh, then with said road to the state line which divides the states of Maryland and Delaware."

- 1852 Ch. 222. Polling place of 3d election district changed to Harmony at a cross road leading to Gilpin's Point.
- 1854 Ch. 211. Election district No. 4 erected with the following boundaries:
"Beginning at Newhope on the road from Federalsburg, to Upper Hunting creek, from Newhope to run with the road known as the Walnut Tree Road, by Friendship church to Hubbard's cross roads, from thence with the public road by Concord church towards the Bloomery mills until it intersects the public road beginning near said Concord church and running in an easterly direction through Bennett Todds' farm and over the camp ground branch to the Delaware State line, thence with said State line, until it intersects the dividing lines between Dorchester and Caroline counties, thence with said dividing line to the place of beginning."
- 1861 Ch. 45. Election district No. 1 divided into two precincts as follows:
"starting for the first precinct, at the County line dividing Queen Anne's and Caroline counties, at a point on said line known, as the Nine Bridges, thence with the county road to Bridgetown and including said town; thence with the county road to Hollingsworth Corner; thence by the county road to Genns' Shop, thence with the county road to Old Town Branch; thence with the country road leading to Greensborough, until it reaches the road leading to Kuglur's Mill; thence with said road to said Mill; and thence with the branch leading from said Mill to Choptank River; thence with said river, until it reaches the State line dividing Maryland and Delaware; thence with said line, until it reaches the line dividing Queen Anne's and Caroline counties; thence with said line to the starting point at Nine Bridges; and the second precinct to include all the residue of said election district, number one, not contained within the above named lines."
- 1862 Ch. 31. Repeals Acts of 1861 Ch. 45.
- 1870 Ch. 54. County divided into 5 election districts, as follows:
"to begin for the boundaries thereof at the crossing by the public road of Long Marsh Branch, the dividing line between Caroline and Queen Anne's Counties, and thence with said public road to Hollingsworth's corner, thence with the public road to Gen's shop, thence with the public road to Old Town Branch, thence with the public road to Anthony's Mill, thence with the shortest line to Choptank River, thence with the river to the Delaware line, and thence with the boundaries of Caroline County to the place of beginning. District No. two, or Greensbor-

ough district, shall consist of the remaining portion of what has been heretofore known as District No. 1, or the upper District of Caroline County. District No. three, or Denton District, shall consist of what has heretofore been known as District No. two, of Caroline County. District No. four, or Harmony District, of what has heretofore been known as District No. three, and District No. five, or Federalsburg District of what has heretofore been known as District No. four. All elections for public officers shall be held in District No. one, as constituted by this Section, at Henderson in District No. two, at Greensborough; in District No. three, at Denton in District No. four, at Harmony, and in District No. five, at Federalsburg.

1880 Ch. 107. Creates election district No. 6 as follows:

"Beginning at Hillsborough, at the intersection of the counties of Caroline, Talbot and Queen Anne's, and running with the division line between Caroline and Talbot counties down Tuckahoe Creek to the mouth thereof, thence in a northerly direction up the Choptank river to the Brick Mill, thence with the county road to Boonsborough district to Wilson's Mill, there sometimes called the head of Tuckahoe Creek, and thence with the lines dividing the counties of Caroline and Queen Anne's, in a southerly direction to the place of beginning."

1880 Ch. 208. Changes boundary line and transfers certain territory from Dorchester to Caroline County.

1884 Ch. 17. Divides the 4th election district into two election precincts as follows:

". . . . the dividing line between said precincts shall be as follows: Beginning at Choptank river at the mouth of Hog creek, and running up and with said creek until said stream is crossed by the public road leading from Bethlehem to Harmony, near R. M. Messick's steam mill, then with the public road to Friendship M. E. Church, passing near Union Grove. The remaining lines of said precinct to remain as the lines of said election district already laid down.

That all of said election district north of said dividing line as laid down in section two, shall be called and known as Harmony precinct, or precinct number one and that all of said election district south of said line shall be called and known as Preston precinct, or precinct number two."

1894 Ch. 499. Erects election districts 7 and 8 and changes the line between 2d and 3d election districts as follows:

"the boundary lines for the new district number seven or Ridgely district, shall read as follows: Beginning at point on Choptank river north of Denton Bridge opposite end of Park and Dunning public road; then up said river

by and with the same to mouth of Deep Branch (also known as Mill Creek); then with said Deep Branch to Forge Branch till it intersects Meadow Bridge county road at Marble Head farm; and thence with Meadow Bridge road to public road leading from Oakland to Greensborough; thence with said road to new public road leading from Ridgely to Bridgetown; thence with said road to a stream (on the north side of a farm known as J. A. Roe farm) called Spring Valley Branch; thence with said Spring Valley Branch to Queen Anne line; thence in a westerly and southerly direction with Queen Anne and present boundary line between second and sixth districts as now defined, till it reaches the mouth of the Ridgely and Long's school house road; thence with said road to the entrance to the Thomas Sparkling farm; thence by and with the said entrance till it intersects the division lines between the said Sparkling farm and what is known as the Liden or Thomas F. Garey farm; thence with said division line till it reaches the southeast corner of said Sparkling farm; and thence in a straight line to the point on the Denton and Ridgely road where the Park and Dunning road intersects the Denton and Ridgely road; and thence with said Park and Dunning road till it intersects the Denton and Brick Mill river road; and from thence in a straight line to Choptank river to place of beginning. The boundary lines for new district number eight or American Corners district shall read as follows: Beginning at the mouth of Mill creek on east side of Choptank river near Williston, following said creek to road leading across Todd's Mill Dam; thence with said road to new road starting at Lacy Stevens' farm, and with new road to cross roads at William Stevens' farm; and from thence with said new road to Smithville and Hickmantown road; thence to Woodenhawk Anderstown road and with said road to Delaware line south till it strikes Woodenhawk stream, and with said stream to the new road by way of Chitman's lane to Chestnut Grove; then to road leading from American Corners to Federalsburg; thence with said road to the Isaac Lehman road; thence to three bridge Federalsburg road by the way of Bayard Nichols road to Nichols Post Office; thence to Friendship Church by way of Greer farm; thence by direct public roads to Grove, Fowling creek and Ganey's on Choptank river, and with said river to place of beginning. The boundary on the east side of Choptank river between the second and third election districts shall read as follows: Beginning at the mouth of Chapel Branch on Choptank river and running with said branch till it intersects the Delaware State line."

CARROLL COUNTY.

The erection of Carroll County occasioned one of the liveliest political controversies within the annals of the State and finally became one of the influences leading up to the constitutional amendment¹⁶ which introduced marked changes in the manner of selecting the delegates and Governor. As early as 1830 the number of inhabitants in what is now Carroll County is said to have been over 20,000. These people found difficulty in transacting their business at the County Courts and the more progressive citizens in the vicinity of Westminster and Taneytown began to agitate the question of the establishment of a new county. The aroused public interest sought satisfaction in three different ways. It was suggested that Baltimore and vicinity be separated from the rest of Baltimore County and that a new county seat more centrally located be chosen. A second suggestion was that a portion of Frederick County be erected into a new county, and the third suggestion involved the taking of portions of Baltimore and Frederick counties for the formation of a new division. This last suggestion gradually gained the ascendancy until a Memorial was presented to the Legislature by sundry citizens of Frederick and Baltimore counties, praying for an alteration in the formation of said counties. This was published in the Maryland Public Documents for the December session of 1831 and issued in pamphlet form. According to Scarff the boundaries of the new county desired were to run as follows:

Beginning at Parr's Spring, at the head of the western branch of the Patapsco River, and running with said branch, binding on Anne Arundel County, to the north branch of said river; thence running up said branch, excluding the same, to the old mill on Dr. Moore Fall's land, including said mill; thence north seventeen degrees east to the Pennsylvania line; thence, binding on said line westerly to Rock Creek, one of the head-waters of the Monocacy River; thence with said creek and river, excluding the same, to Double Pipe Creek; thence with said creek and Little Pipe Creek and Sam's Creek, including their waters, to Maurois' mill, excluding said mill, and thence with a straight line to Parr's Spring, the beginning.

This memorial was referred by the Legislature to a special committee who ultimately introduced a bill which was passed by the General Assembly. The boundaries there defined were almost exactly those

¹⁶ Acts of 1836, Ch. 197.

requested, but the phraseology in describing the various points differs somewhat. The intent of the memorialists was also somewhat changed by the insertion of the name Carroll County, and by the provision that the majority of the inhabitants in the parts of each of the counties included should confirm the Act. The first modification seemed to be entirely popular, but the second was the occasion of much agitation. There was an exciting campaign of education prior to the fall election when the question was decided adversely to the erection of a new county by a narrow margin in Baltimore County. The method of procedure called for by the original Act was also open to criticism. A report of the Committee on Grievances and Courts of Justice reviewing the constitutional question respecting Carroll County¹⁷ appeared in the Maryland Public Documents of the December session. According to the majority report the law was held to be unconstitutional since it deviated from the methods authorized for amending the State constitution by specifying that the same should be confirmed by a popular vote rather than by a subsequent Legislature. During the legislative session of 1835-6 a new bill was introduced which was finally passed on March 25, 1836, and confirmed January 19, 1837,¹⁸ erecting Carroll County. It had been conclusively shown by the vote taken in 1833 that such portions of Liberty and Newmarket districts of Frederick County as had been included in the original bill were opposed to separation from Frederick County. The new law accordingly excluded these and the boundary was determined as follows:

"Beginning at the Pennsylvania line, where Rock Creek crosses said line, thence with the course of said creek until it merges in the Monocacy river, thence with the Monocacy to the point where Double Pipe Creek empties into Monocacy, thence with the course of Pipe Creek to the point of junction of Little Pipe Creek and Big Pipe Creek, thence with the course of Little Pipe Creek, to the point where Sam's Creek empties into Little Pipe Creek, thence with Sam's Creek to Warfield's Mill, thence with the road called Buffaloe Road, and to a point called Par's Spring, thence with the Western Branch of the Patapsco Falls to the point of its junction with the Northern Branch of Patapsco Falls, thence with the North Branch of the said Falls to the bridge erected over said Falls on the Turnpike Road, leading from Reisters-

¹⁷ I am indebted to the courtesy of Mr. Louis H. Dielman for calling my attention to this elusive little pamphlet.

¹⁸ Acts of 1835, Ch. 256; 1836, Ch. 77.

town to Westminster, thence with a straight course to the Pennsylvania line, running North seventeen degrees East, thence with the Pennsylvania line to the place of beginning."

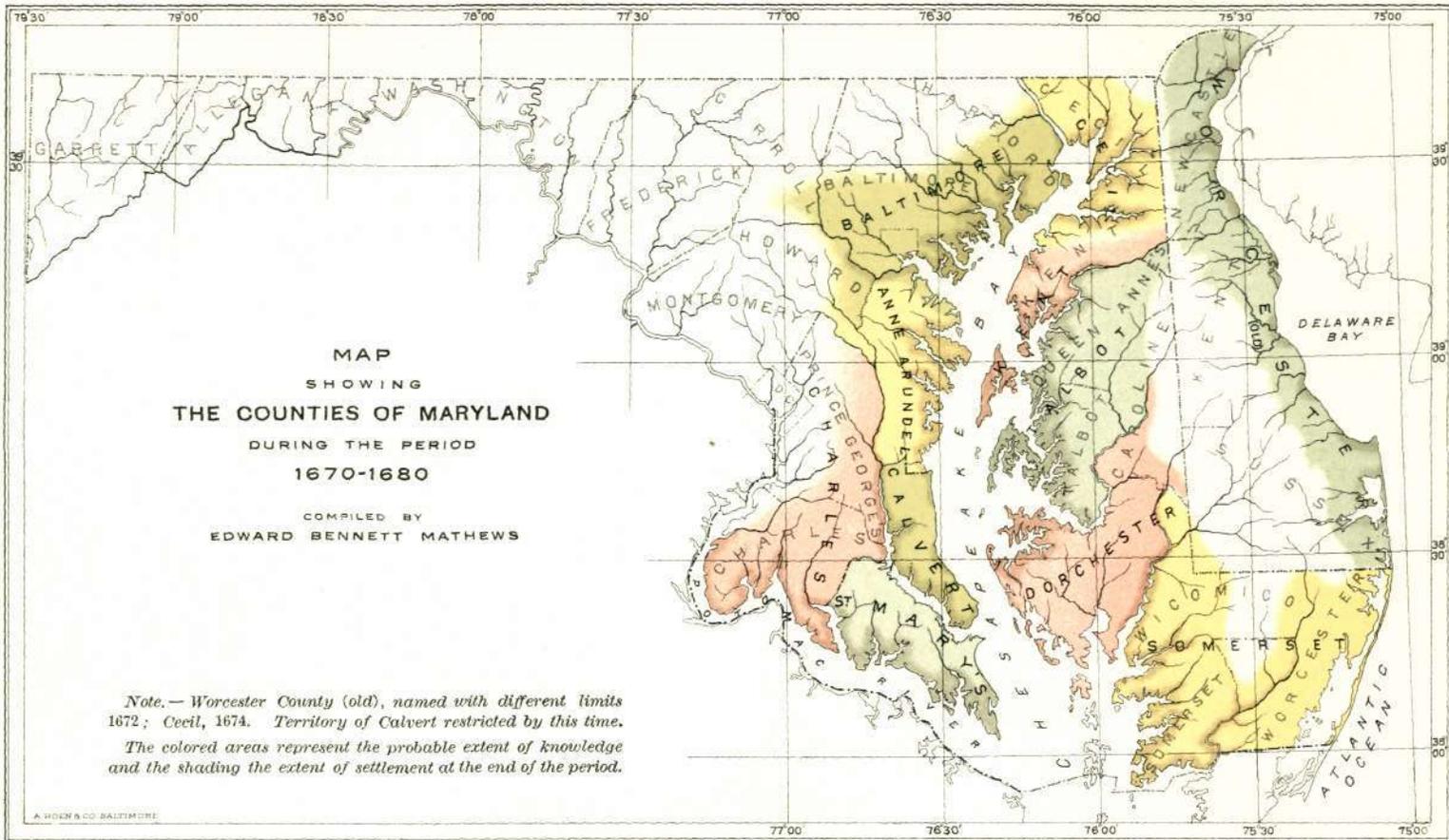
The election districts of the county were laid off in the early part of 1837, but it was not until 1838 that the government of the county became perfected. Commissioners to survey and mark the line between Baltimore and Carroll counties were authorized by Acts of 1840, Ch. 10.

The settlement of Carroll County is discussed under Frederick and Baltimore counties. It is of interest in this connection to note that for a short time when the lands were first being taken up in the vicinity of New Windsor and Union Bridge that this region was a part of Prince George's County. The inhabitants came from the Scotch-Irish in the vicinity of Gettysburg, and the Germans of York County as well as from the English stock who worked their way inland from the settlements along the tidewater. As early as 1740 the Monocacy road had become in part a wagon road, a development from an earlier line of pack-horse travel from Hanover westward to the Potomac. This became the line of settlement during the early stages of development. Important localities also sprang up along Little Pipe Creek and its tributaries in the vicinity of Union Bridge.

Although established long after the boundaries of the State had been finally settled the territory of Carroll County was the scene of bitter controversy, often accompanied by bloodshed, regarding the territorial limits of Pennsylvania and Maryland about the middle of the eighteenth century. Most of these difficulties centered about Digg's Choice, the tract of land southwest of Hanover claimed under Maryland and Pennsylvania grants.

CARROLL COUNTY ELECTION DISTRICTS.

- 1798 Ch. 115. Included in Frederick and Baltimore counties until 1836.
See Baltimore county 1821 Ch. 38; 1822 Ch. 14; 1823 Ch. 65; 1824 Ch. 170; 1835 Ch. 125; Ch. 209; 1831 Ch. 232.
- 1835 Ch. 256. Erects Carroll County out of parts of Frederick and Baltimore counties.
- 1836 Ch. 19. Confirms Acts of 1835 Ch. 256.
- 1836 Ch. 32. Commission appointed to lay off 9 separate election districts.
- 1836 Ch. 37. Supplemental bill substituting one Commissioner.



MAP
 SHOWING
THE COUNTIES OF MARYLAND
 DURING THE PERIOD
1670-1680

COMPILED BY
EDWARD BENNETT MATHEWS

Note. — Worcester County (old), named with different limits 1672; Cecil, 1674. Territory of Calvert restricted by this time. The colored areas represent the probable extent of knowledge and the shading the extent of settlement at the end of the period.

- 1837 Ch. 177. Line between the 1st and 3d election districts changed to run as follows:
 "Beginning at the intersection of Grover's and Mause's mill, leaving Jacob Mause in the third district; thence along said road to where it crosses Piney creek, at Peter's tavern; thence up said creek to the Pennsylvania line, and with said creek to the Pennsylvania line, and with said line to where it intersects the line of the third district."
- 1837 Ch. 331. Changes lines of 9th election district to run as follows:
 "Beginning at Parr's Spring, and running with the original lines to Morgan's Run; thence with Morgan's Run to Richard Frizzell's Branch; thence with said branch to a road leading from Philip Nicodemus' Mill to the Calico House; thence with the original lines to the place of beginning."
- 1840 Ch. 10. Commission appointed to survey and mark Baltimore County line.
- 1841 Ch. 17. Line between 3d and 7th election districts changed to run as follows:
 "Beginning on the natural boundary, at the intersection of Big Pipe Creek, in Peter Bister's meadow and running thence by a direct line to Jacob Frock's dwelling house, leaving the same in the seventh election district, thence by a direct line to Adam and William Bisher's dwelling house, leaving the same in the seventh election district, and thence to the Westminster and Littlestown, which is now the boundary line between the third and seventh election districts."
- 1842 Ch. 46. Commissioners appointed to fix polling place of 4th election district.
- 1843 Ch. 295. Polling place for 3d election district changed to Peter Lippy's tavern.
- 1845 Ch. 15. Changes the line of the 7th election district to run as follows:
 "Extending along the county road, called the Nicodemus road, to Morgan's run, then up said run to the centre of a county road leading from the stone meeting house to the Washington road, then bounding on the centre of said road, to the centre of the county road leading from Westminster to Warfieldsburgh."
- 1845 Ch. 49. Repeals above.
- 1845 Ch. 160. Same as Ch. 15 except last course is to Washington road.
- 1845 Ch. 309. Repeals Act of 1843 Ch. 295 and makes polling place at tavern of Peter E. Myers.
- 1852 Ch. 101. Commission appointed to lay off election district No. 10, or Middleburg district.
- 1853 Ch. 254. Changes northwest line of 4th election district to Washington road

Changes line between 5th and 9th election districts to run as follows:

"To commence at a point where the present division line crosses the new Liberty road, and running thence with a straight line to the dwelling house now occupied by James McQuay, leaving said McQuay's in district number nine, thence with a straight line to the dwelling house now occupied by John Hess, leaving said Hess in district number nine, thence to the Washington road, then with said road to Morgan's run, and up said run to the original division line."

1856 Ch. 240. Election district No. 11 established out of parts of 2d, 7th and 9th.

"Beginning at the intersection of the county line with the Buffalo road at Sam's Creek, and running up a branch of said creek to a spring near the dwelling of Abraham Albaugh, Esquire, thence by a straight line to a point on the road leading from Mount Airy to Westminster, directly opposite the dwelling of Major Benjamin Gorsuch; thence with said road to the Nicodemus road, thence with the said Nicodemus road westwardly to the house of A. Brown (colored) thence by a straight line to the Stone Chapel, thence by a straight line to Cassell's mill, on Little Pipe Creek, thence down said creek to the Melville mills, thence by a straight line to Upton Roop's saw mill, and down the branch thence to said Pipe Creek, and with it to the bridge over Sam's Creek, near Rinehart's marble quarries, thence up said creek, the county line, to the place of beginning."

1864 Ch. 297. Changes polling place in the Myersville district.

1870 Ch. 302. Divides 7th election district into 2 voting precincts as follows:

"Precinct number one of Seventh Election District, beginning at a point on the Baltimore and Reisterstown Turnpike Road, at the dividing line between Woolert's District (number four), and Westminster (number seven) as now located, and running northwest with the centre of said turnpike road through Westminster District (number seven), to a point in the city of Westminster, at the junction of the Littlestown Turnpike Roads with the Uniontown Turnpike Road, thence with the centre of the said Uniontown Turnpike Road to the junction of the said Uniontown Turnpike Road with the road leading to Taneytown, thence with the centre of the said Taneytown Road to the division line between said District (number seven), and Uniontown District (number two), and all that part of said District (number seven), lying and being on the north and east of the said division line shall be known

as Precinct number one, and the voting place shall be the Courthouse; and all that part of said District (number seven), lying and being south and west of said division line, shall be known as Precinct number two, and the voting place shall be some suitable place selected by the County Commissioners within the limits of the corporation of said city of Westminster."

1872 Ch. 66. 12th election district from 2d, 10th, and 11th.

"Beginning at Sam's Creek, the boundary line between Carroll and Frederick counties, and at the point in said Sam's Creek where the tail race from McKinstry's mills empties therein, and running thence by a straight line to intersect the middle of the public road opposite the storehouse now occupied by D. F. Albaugh and Brother; thence by and with the centre of said public road to the bridge over Little Pipe Creek near Linwood, being a corner of Election District number two; thence through said district, by a straight line, to Reuben Haines' dwelling-house, excluding said premises; thence by a straight line to intersect the public county road from Union Bridge to Union Town, at a point in said road opposite the centre of a lane leading off therefrom towards the public schoolhouse, being between the house and the premises of Abraham Harris, and the premises of Abraham Stoner; thence by a straight line to the spring at the head of Log Cabin Branch, being at a corner of Election District number two; thence down Log Cabin Branch to the centre of the road leading from Union Town to Middleburg; thence along the middle of said public road towards Middleburg, until opposite a lane known as Hann's lane, being now between the lands of Abraham Shirk and Joseph Roop; thence down said lane to the south end thereof; thence by a straight line running by Lewis Haines' dwelling-house, and including said premises, to Pipe Creek, the boundary line between Carroll and Frederick counties; thence up said creek and Sam's Creek to the place of beginning."

1874 Ch. 175. Repeals 1870 Ch. 302 and re-enacts to establish voting precincts in Westminster district, number seven, with amendments:

"Beginning on the Western Maryland Railroad, at the point where said railroad intersects the line of division between Westminster district number seven, and New Windsor district number eleven, and running with said railroad to the Cranberry Station on said railroad, thence by a straight line to John W. Lucabaugh's Mill, thence east to Cranberry Run, then running with the said stream to where it crosses the line of division between Westminster

district number seven and Manchester district number six; and all that part of said Westminster district number seven, lying south and east of said division line as above indicated."

1888 Ch. 337. 13th election district established.

"Commencing at Parr's spring and running northeast in the middle of the Patapsco river to the point of the entrance of Gillis falls in said river; thence with said falls to where the Cabbage spring branch enters said falls; thence west with said branch to the Roop road; thence with a straight line to the plank bridge on the Buffalo road, opposite Albert Jones' gate; thence in a southwestern direction, along the line between Frederick and Carroll counties, to the place of beginning, Parr's spring."

CECIL COUNTY.

Cecil County includes one of the oldest, if not the oldest, settlements made within the present limits of Maryland, although no habitation marks its site at the present time. It appears probable that as early as 1627-28 the followers of William Claiborne established a trading post on Palmer's Island (now known as Garrett Island and formerly called Watson Island, at the mouth of the Susquehanna River). No further settlements of importance were made in Cecil County until after the treaty with the Susquehanna Indians concluded in 1652. The more settled conditions resulting from the treaty caused a movement of the population toward the head of the Chesapeake from the settled portions of Maryland and from the Delaware River. In 1658 the first settlement was made on Carpenter Point near the mouth of Principio Creek. A year or so later Augustine Herrman settled on Bohemia Manor and soon the estuaries of the Elk and Sassafras rivers were marked by numerous plantations. By the middle of the eighth decade the population was sufficient to warrant the setting off of that portion of Baltimore County lying east of the Chesapeake into a new unit named in honor of the aged proprietor, Cecil, Lord Baltimore. A proclamation issued on the 6th of June, 1674, runs as follows:

Proclamation¹⁹

By his Excellency the Capt Generall of Maryland

"To all the Inhabitants of the said Province or Others whom these may concerne Charles Calvert Esqr Capt Generall of the said Province sendeth Greeting Know yee That whereas severall persons are already seated within the limitations hereafter mentioned and aswell for the preservation of the peace in that part of the province as for the ease and benefitt of the Inhabitants there or which shall hereafter inhabite there I doe hereby declare & publish that from the mouth of the Susquehanough River and so downe the easterne side of Chesepeake Bay to Swan point and from thence to Hell point and so up Chester River to the head thereof is hereby erected into a County and called by the name of Cecill County. And I doe hereby further declare that the Southerne bounds of Baltimore County be the South side of Potapsco River and from the highest plantation, on that side of the River due south two miles into the woods And that the north side of Petuxent River beginning at the north side of Lynns Creeke be adjoynd to Ann Arrundell County And that the Sheriffs of the severall respective Countyes of Cecill, Baltimore, Ann Arrundell and Calvert make proclamation hereof in their said Countys respectively and imediately after proclamation Coppy hereof affix at the Court house doore of their respective Countyes In wittnes whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and caused the lesser Seale of this province to be hereunto affixed the sixth day of June in the 42th yeare of the Dominion of Cecilius &c Annoq Dom 1674

Charles Calvert

To Nathaniel Stiles High Sheriff of Cecill County"

The area thus included would embrace practically all of what is now Kent County. This was more than Baltimore County had included prior to the proclamation. Moreover, it contained Yarmouth town, where at times the Kent County Court had been held. Such a curtailment of territory, embracing some of the more populous districts, was apparently too much for the Kent countians. The Governor was quickly appraised of his error and within two weeks issued the following supplémental proclamation:

"By the Capt Generall of Maryland²⁰

"fforasmuch as by a late Proclamation beareing date the sixth day of this instant June some Additions were made to severall Countys upon the division of that of Baltimore County and by the same proclamation it was then declared that Swan Point downe to Hell point on Chester River should be and remaine for the future belonging to that Easterne side of the Bay lately erected and called by the name of Cecill County upon further consideration hereof it is thought most necessary that so much of the Easterne

¹⁹ Md. Arch., 15: 39.²⁰ Md. Arch., 15: 41.

side as was formerly added to Kent County doe still remaine and belong to the said County as afore notwithstanding that part of the said proclamation in wittnesse whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and caused the lesser seale of this Province to be hereunto affixed the 19th day of June in the 42th yeare of the Dominion of Cecilius &c Annoq Dmi 1674

To all whom these may Concerne."

The prime mover in the establishment of this county appears to have been Augustine Herrman, perhaps the strongest man in the Province at this time. Although subsequently a loyal adherent of Lord Baltimore it was his discernment, while an ambassador from the Dutch of Manhattan, that recognized the weak point in the Maryland charter by which Delaware was ultimately lost to the Baltimores. The scheme for the establishment of a new county in the northern part of the Province was not new. Already the people had distinguished East Baltimore County from the remainder on the Western Shore and by 1670 Herrman, in his map, had not only named but indicated the bounds of the new county which was not erected by proclamation until four years later.

There is no record showing the extent of that part "of the Easterne side as was formerly added to Kent County." It probably included the settlements on the north side of the Chester and along the Bay perhaps as high as Worton Point. The line, if there ever was one, probably divided the neck between the Sassafra and the Chester from west to east.

The general act for dividing and regulating the several counties of the Eastern Shore passed by the General Assembly of 1706²¹ finally settled the line between Cecil and Kent as it is to-day by enacting that

"From and after the 1st of May 1707, Kent county shall begin at the south point of Eastern neck, and from thence up Chesapeake bay to Sassafra river, and up said river to the south end of the long Horse bridge lying over the head of the said river, and from thence with a line drawn east by south, to the exterior bounds of this province."

The eastern limits of Cecil County formed by the exterior limits of the State have had an unusually interesting history which cannot be given in full in the present paper.²² Each portion of the line has some historic

²¹ Ch. 3.

²² See report on the Resurvey of the Mason and Dixon Line, Md. Geol. Survey, Repts., Vol. VII.

significance. The boundary from the Sassafra to the tangent stone in the vicinity of the Pennsylvania Railroad is a part of the general tangent line which was run from the middle point of an east and west line extending from Fenwick Island to the Chesapeake. The northerly line was run from this middle point in a way to be tangent to a circle of twelve miles radius whose center was in Newcastle, Delaware. Such a line was the result of a long-pending suit between the Penns and the Baltimores, and the attempt of the Lord High Chancellor to express specifically what was intended by James II and his Council in their decree of 1685. Numerous attempts were made to run this difficult line during the years 1760 to 1763, but it was not finally located and marked until the work of Messrs. Mason and Dixon a few years later.

At the time the boundaries were determined the exact conditions of the country were not known and the provision was made that if the tangent line touched the circle south of the east-west diameter that the due north line from the tangent point should not subtract any portion of the circle from the possessions of the Penns.

The second portion of the eastern line is a small part of the twelve-mile circle which lay west of the due north line, passing through the tangent point. The circle itself represents the attempt of James II while still Duke of York to retain the integrity of the old settlement on the Delaware when the King, his brother, granted Pennsylvania to William Penn. The actual location of this circle was the occasion of much controversy during the long-drawn dispute between the Penns and the Baltimores. Their commissioners wrangled regarding the center of the circle, whether it should be twelve miles in radius or circumference, and whether or not the miles should be measured horizontally or surficially. The arc itself, so far as it forms a boundary of Cecil County, was originally run by Mason and Dixon and has subsequently been resurveyed by Col. Graham in 1849 and Captain Hodgkins in 1892. The third portion of the eastern boundary is a straight line in the meridian of the tangent point extending from the so-called point of intersection to the latitude of the east-west boundary run by Mason and Dixon. The intersection point at the southern end of this meridian line, situated just south of the

Baltimore and Ohio R. R. tracks, has been the scene of many interesting incidents, some of them of questionable character, on account of its marking the intersection of the jurisdiction of three states.

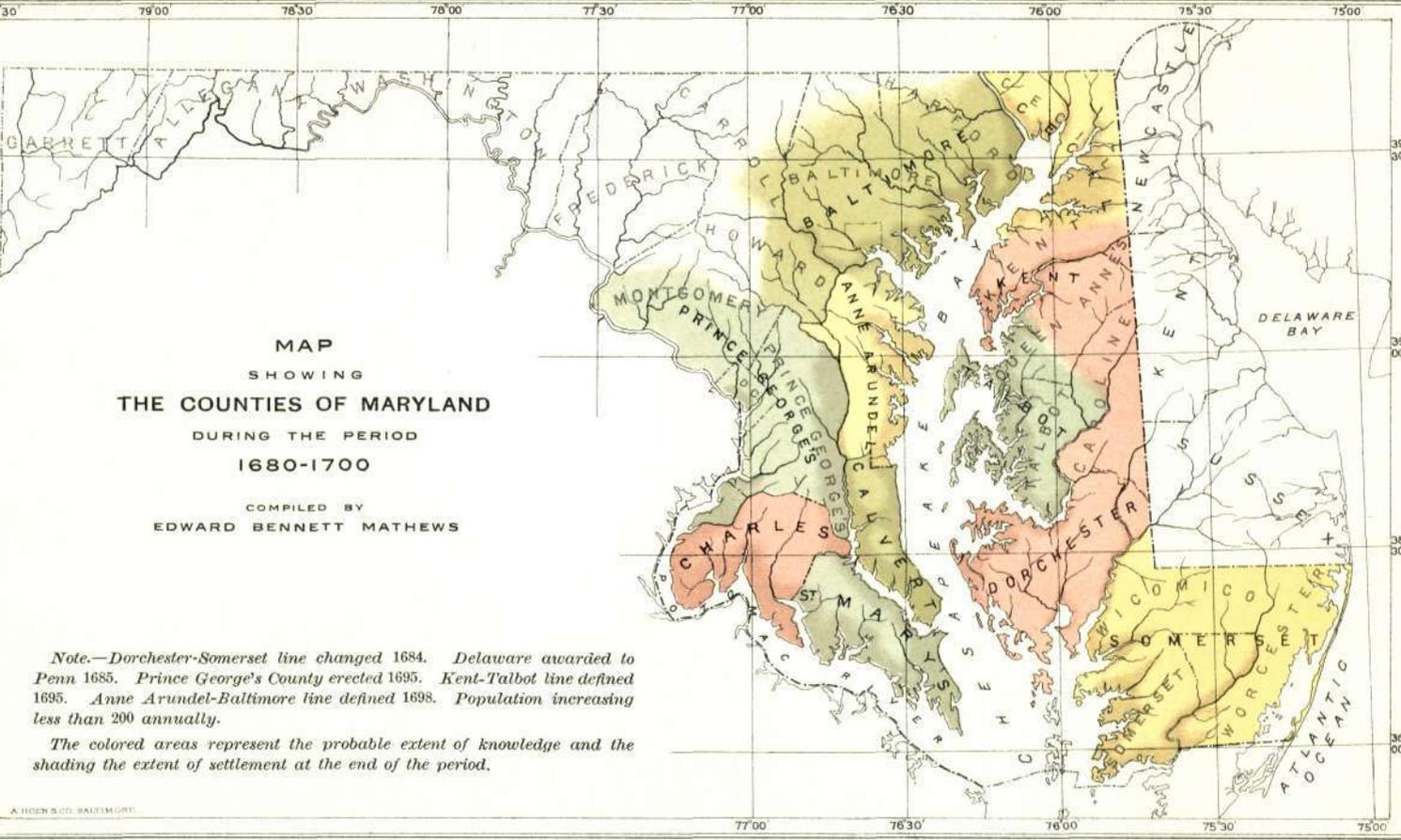
The northern boundary of Cecil County is a portion of the famous Mason and Dixon line which was run to mark the settlement of a controversy between the Penns and the Baltimores, which sprang up during the latter part of the seventeenth century. The first attempt to define the line between the two provinces and thus define the northern boundary of Cecil County, was the old Talbot line run under the direction of Charles, Lord Baltimore, in 1682. This line, also known as the Octoraro line, was the rough, blazed boundary passing in a more or less crooked line from the mouth of Octoraro Creek to Chester, Pennsylvania. The next line was the so-called "temporary line" run in 1739 by commissioners representing both interested parties. This boundary was laid off to permit the settlement of the territory in the adjoining provinces without the stimulation of border disputes. East of the Susquehanna River, that is, north of Cecil County, the line was placed $15\frac{3}{4}$ miles south of the southernmost point from Philadelphia as it was at that time. This line was a straight line and therefore not a true east and west line. The boundary determined by Mason and Dixon was an east and west line and therefore curved to allow for the curvature of the earth and was run in the latitude of 15 miles south of the point in Philadelphia previously adopted. A portion of this line was redetermined by Col. Graham in 1849 and all of it was resurveyed by Captain Hodgkins in 1903.

CECIL COUNTY ELECTION DISTRICTS.

- 1798 Ch. 115. County divided into 4 election districts.
 1799 Ch. 48. Confirms Acts of 1798 Ch. 115.
 1799 Ch. 50. Commission appointed to divide county into 4 election districts.
 1801 Ch. 59. Commission authorized to make report to County Clerk.
 1812 Ch. 19. Polling place in 3d election district changed to jail at Charlestown.
 1823 Ch. 63. 1st election district called Cecilton.
 1823 Ch. 114. Polling place of 3d election district to be the jail or any other place which may be procured.

MAP
 SHOWING
THE COUNTIES OF MARYLAND
 DURING THE PERIOD
1680-1700
 COMPILED BY
EDWARD BENNETT MATHEWS

Note.—Dorchester-Somerset line changed 1684. Delaware awarded to Penn 1685. Prince George's County erected 1695. Kent-Talbot line defined 1695. Anne Arundel-Baltimore line defined 1698. Population increasing less than 200 annually.
 The colored areas represent the probable extent of knowledge and the shading the extent of settlement at the end of the period.



A. HOEN & CO. BALTIMORE

- 1835 Ch. 259. Repeals previous acts and appoints Commission to divide county into not more than 7 districts the same to report to clerk of Cecil County Court.
- 1836 Ch. 267. Confirms Acts of 1835 Ch. 259.
- 1839 Ch. 164. Changes polling place of 5th election district to Charlestown.
- 1840 Ch. 105. Act of 1839 Ch. 164 repealed.
- 1845 Ch. 226. Polling place of 2d election district changed from Oldtown to Chesapeake City.
- 1853 Ch. 94. Erects new election district out of parts of the 6th and 7th election district with boundaries as follows:
 "Beginning at the Octoraro creek where it enters into Maryland, thence down said creek to the Susquehanna, up said river to the Pennsylvania line and thence along said line to the place of beginning."
- 1856 Ch. 227. New election district erected out of parts of 4th, 5th, and 6th election districts as follows:
 "Beginning for the same at the Pennsylvania line where it intersects the public road near John Donohoo's, thence south by said road to its intersection with the road from Rising Sun to Brick Meeting House, thence south by said road until it intersects the road from Brinkley's Cross Roads to Brick Meeting House, thence east by said road until it intersects North East Creek, thence south by said creek to the bridge on the road from Shalamiah to Nowland's corner, thence east by said road to the road leading from Elkton to the Pennsylvania line near McDonnelly's, thence west by said line to the place of beginning.
 That all that portion hereby laid off from the fourth and sixth districts shall constitute the ninth election district, and the polls shall be held at the village of Brick Meeting House."
- 1858 Ch. 273. Changes lines between the 5th, 6th, and 9th election districts as follows:
 "Beginning for the bounds of the said ninth election district, at the Pennsylvania Line, at the road near John Brown Joiner, thence south with said road to its intersection with the road leading from Rising Sun to Brick Meeting House, thence east with said road to the north-west corner of the lands of Jacob Job, thence south along the line dividing the lands of Jacob Job from those of D. H. Heath, of Job H. Kirk from Joseph Laird, and of Joseph Haines from Thomas Maxwell, to a large Black oak tree in the road leading from Brick Meeting House to Farmington, thence south by a straight line to the Butler Stone, near Slicer's School House, on the Charleston road, thence by said road to the intersection of the road from Battle Swamp to Nowland's Corner, thence by

said road to the North East Creek at Gilpin's Bridge, thence by the present lines of the ninth and the Pennsylvania line, to the place of beginning.

That all that portion hereby laid off from the fifth and sixth districts shall belong to the ninth election district."

1860 Ch. 338. Changes line between 3d and 5th election districts to run as follows:

"Beginning on a point on said line where the road from Elkton, to Turkey Point, crosses Plumb creek, it shall run in a straight line direct to the spot where the road from Elkton to North East crosses Mill creek."

CHARLES COUNTY.

The history of Charles County falls into two distinct periods, the first relating to the old Charles County, the second to that which has been maintained to the present day.

Old Charles County was erected in accordance with instructions received from Lord Baltimore, who had apparently made an agreement with his friend Robert Brookes that the latter should be commander of a county to be erected for the purpose of including the colonists which Brookes was to bring over to Maryland. In accordance with these instructions the Governor on November 21, 1650,²³ with the advice of his Council

"erected the Southside of Putuxent River beginning at the Sasquehannah Point extending it self from thence into the Middle of the Woods towards St Maries Southward, and from thence Westward along the middle of the Woods betwixt Patomeck and Putuxent Rivers as farr as Matapania towards the Head of Putuxent River and from thence againe Eastward along the River side to the said Sasquehannah Point, into a County by the name of Charles County, and Robert Brookes Esqr to bee Commander thereof."

The local terms introduced here are of interest and warrant a word of explanation especially since various local historical authorities have drawn wrong inferences regarding them. Susquehanna Point is the same as the present Cedar Point and the line proposed for the southern boundary of Old Charles County corresponds approximately to the location of the present Three Notch Road. At that time the Patuxent River was only thought of as extending to the head of navigation or to the junction

²³ This date is taken from the revocation, Md. Arch., 3: 308. Md. Arch., 3: 259.

of the Western Branch. The Big Patuxent above this point at that time had been explored to little or no extent and even into the eighteenth century was known as Snowdens River rather than the Big Patuxent. This divergence in the use of local terms is frequently encountered where only parts of the natural features were known at the period of the first settlement.

Old Charles County was not of long duration. By the 28th of September, 1653, Lord Baltimore had issued instructions to discharge Robert Brookes and in July, 1654, the Governor, by the advice of his Council, repealed the act of 1650 "touching the Erecting Some part of the South Side of Patuxent River into a County by the Name of Charles County." At the same time the Governor decided to

"Erect make and appoint both sides of Putuxent River into one County by the name Calvert County Bounded on the South Side with Pynehill River or Creeke to the head thereof and from thence through the woods to the head of Putuxent River being the Northerly bound of St Maries County, and bounded on the North Side with the Creeke upon the Westerne Side of Chesapeake Bay called the herring Creeke and from thence through the woods to the head of Putuxent River being the Southerly bound of Annarundell County."

The new Charles County, or Charles County as it is known to-day, was erected by the Governor and Council April 13, 1658.²⁴ The sheriff of Charles County is mentioned in the Assembly for 1659 and frequent references are made in succeeding years. The motive for the erection of this new county was the accommodation of the inhabitants in the growing settlements along the estuaries of the Nanjemoy and Port Tobacco creeks. Clearings at the time extended but a short distance away from the water's edge or the stream bottoms and though the number of inhabitants was small the distance from the Court House at St. Mary's City was sufficient to occasion inconvenience. The first definite statement found regarding the limits of Charles County are found in the general act of 1695, defining the limits of many of the then existing counties. According to this act Charles County was to begin upon the

²⁴ Md. Arch., 3: 341.

upper side of the Indian and Bird creeks where the upper bounds of St. Mary's county end and

"Extend it selfe upwards as farr as Mattawoman Creek and branch and bounding on the said Branch by a straight line Drawn from the head thereof to the head of Swansons Creek in Putuxent River including all that Land lying on the uper part of Birds Creek and Indian Creek Branches where St. Marys County Ends to the Lower side of Mattawoman Creek and Branch & Swansons Creek and Branch between Putuxent and Potomock Rivers as aforesaid."

The territory lying north of the northern boundary of Charles County was included within the newly-erected Prince George's County. Just why the small neck between Swansons and Indian creeks on the Patuxent River was included within Charles County is hard to say. It was probably due to the use of natural bounds and the ignorance of local geography. Such few settlers as may have been upon the neck would have preferred to retain their allegiance to Calvert County rather than attend court after long journeys through the woods or around Point Lookout, if they went by water. The extent of settlements along the Potomac was practically coextensive with the limits of Charles County, since there existed at the time an agreement with the Indians by which the whites were not to settle upon Mattawoman Creek. The agreement, however, was not observed for many years as the erection of Prince George's County and the settlements along Rock Creek in the District of Columbia began about this time.

The bounds of Charles County established by the act of 1695 have suffered but one modification since their original creation. This was in 1748 when, according to Chapter 14 of the laws of that date, at the request of certain inhabitants in the lower part of Prince George's County part of the territory in question was transferred to Charles County. The new boundary was defined to be:

"a Line drawn from *Mattawoman*run, in the Road commonly called the *Rolling Road*, that leads from the late Dwelling Plantation of Mr. *Edward Neale*, through the lower Part of Mr. *Peter Dent's* Dwelling Plantation, until it strikes Patowmack River, at or near the bounded Tree of a Tract of Land whereon *John Beall*, junior lives (standing on the Bank of the aforesaid River, at the lower end of the aforesaid River, at the lower End of the aforesaid *Beall's* Plantation)."

The area included between this line and the Potomac River became a part of Charles County as it is to-day.

CHARLES COUNTY ELECTION DISTRICTS.

- 1798 Ch. 115. County divided into 4 election districts.
1799 Ch. 48. Confirms Act of 1798 Ch. 115.
1799 Ch. 50. Commission appointed to divide county into 4 election districts.
1819 Ch. 157. Polling place of 2d election district at Allen's Fresh changed.
1856 Ch. 174. County Commissioners authorized to appoint examiners to lay off a new election district.
1868 Ch. 138. Commission appointed to divide county into not less than 6 nor more than 9 election districts.
1870 Ch. 264. Amends Act of 1868 Ch. 138 giving County Commissioners the right to change lines of election districts upon petition.

DORCHESTER COUNTY.

The lowlying shores of Taylor's Island immediately across the Bay from the Patuxent River and the deeply-indented estuary of the Choptank early attracted the colonists toward the Eastern Shore, but the activity of the Indians and the isolation from their neighbors prevented for a time any extensive settlements. Even the first Delegate, Richard Preston, elected in response to the call of 1669 appears to have lived not in Dorchester, where he owned large tracts of land, but on the shores of the Patuxent River. By 1659 considerable land had been surveyed on the shores of the Choptank, Taylor's Island, about Tar Bay, and the Honga River, and on either side of the straits. It is estimated that there were at that time in the territory which now is included within Dorchester County at least 500 inhabitants, as more than 100 settlers are shown from the rent rolls of that period.²⁵

It is not known exactly when Dorchester County came into being. The records now extant show no act of Assembly or fiat of the proprietor erecting the same. Certain facts point to October 22, 1668, as the date of its erection. The first evidence of its existence lies in the writ issued to Raymond Stapleford on the 4th of February, 1669, by Governor

²⁵ Jones: History of Dorchester County, p. 52.

Charles Calvert, requiring him to prepare for an election.²⁶ At the election occurring in the following April Richard Preston is recorded as a Delegate to the Assembly and Daniel Jenifer as a Burgess. Before this time there are no records of representation of Dorchester County in either House. It therefore seems probable that the County was erected in the latter part of 1668 through proclamation of the proprietor, Cecilus, Lord Baltimore. On the 6th of May, 1669, we have the record²⁷ of the appointment of commissioners to keep the peace in Dorchester County and in the commission it is stated that "we will that the said County extend to Great Choptank River, including the South Side thereof to be accounted and taken to be within the said County of Dorchester"

The next reference to Dorchester County is in the records of the Council meeting at St. Mary's on the 22d of October following in a minute of the order to the sheriffs of Somerset, Dorchester, Talbot, and Baltimore counties regarding the seating of persons "on the Seaboard Side of Delaware Bay from the Bounds of Virginia to the degree 40 Northerly Latitude."²⁸ From this it may be inferred that the bounds of the county at the time of its erection were the Choptank River on the north and the Nanticoke River on the south, on the west Chesapeake Bay, and on the east a disputed boundary. It should be remembered that at or just before this time Lord Baltimore had received a confirmation of his charter from Charles I, and that he was claiming with increasing vigor his rights to the Delaware territory. On the other hand the Dutch through their deputation of 1659 and subsequent correspondence were asserting with equal vigor their rights to the territory of New Sweden which they had recently subjugated. Four years before the establishment of Dorchester County the captured possessions of the Dutch, as far as the east bank of the Delaware, had been given to the King's brother, James, Duke of York. The Duke's representative thought it wise to claim both sides of the Delaware and by 1668 had commenced to give grants in the Delaware territory. Lord Baltimore was evidently eager to establish his claims to the Delaware territory by the

²⁶ Md. Arch., 2: 185.

²⁷ Md. Arch., 5: 52-54.

²⁸ Md. Arch., 5: 56.

presence of colonists before there should be a direct conflict with the powerful Duke of York. No question had as yet arisen concerning the relative rights of William Penn and Lord Baltimore since the grants to the former were not made until about 15 years later. On paper the original bounds of Dorchester County undoubtedly extended to Delaware Bay, but the swiftly-rolling events of the Dutch capitulation, the assumption of authority by the Duke of York, and the subsequent granting of the territorial rights by him to William Penn did not allow time for Lord Baltimore to establish by possession his rights to the eastern portion of what might have been Dorchester County according to the territorial limits defined in the Maryland charter. Practically the eastern limit of Dorchester was the western limit of New Sweden until after the work of the surveyors in 1761-1768, when Mason and Dixon finally determined the eastern limits of Maryland which were accepted as such by the English Chancellor in 1769.

From the date of its erection until the fall of 1684 no change was made in the boundaries of Dorchester County. Somerset County had exercised its authority over what is now the Fork District No. 1, or the territory lying between the northwest (Marshyhope Creek) and the northeast branches of the Nanticoke River, claiming the former to be the main branch of the river and consequently its northwestern boundary. On October 4, 1684, appears the following minute²⁹ on the Proceedings of the Council:

“Severall disputes haveing been, concerning the maine branch of Nanticoke River wch is said to be the bounds betweene Somrsett and Dorchester Counties, for the uncertainty whereof, the bounds of each County have also been disputed, and severall Errors may thereupon ensue, which to avoid for the future any to rectifie as much as may be what is past This board passed this following ordr (viz:)

Somersett and Dorchester County bounds to be ascertained.

Maryland ss:

By the honble the Councill

Whereas Nantecoke River is said to be the bounds betweene Sommersett and Dorchester Counties, and there have been many disputes and doubts concerning the maine branch, and it is not sufficiently resolved which it is to the greate disquiett and disturbance of the Inhabitants there Seated: ffor redress whereof, and in ordr to settle the same to avoid any future contro-

²⁹ Md. Arch., 17: 286.

versie or dispute, It is by this board considered and Ordered that the Comrs formerly appointed to lay out for the Indians seated upon the said River of Nantecoke their Land assigned them by his Lsp: (viz:) Coll William Stevens, Capt Henry Smith, Mr Francis Jenckins, and Capt David Browne of Sommersett County, Majr Thomas Taylor; Mr Bartholomew Ennalls, and Mr Charles Hutchins of Dorchester County, or any four or more of them (whereof the said Coll William Stevens, and Majr Thomas Taylor to be alwaies One) be and they are hereby authorised appointed and Empowered to consider and enquire into the pmisses; soe as to ascertain the said maine branch of Nantecoke River and bounds between the sd Two Counties, which they are required to certifie unto this board by the first day of the next Provinciaall Court for further approbation and confirmation thereof, to be recorded for the true bounds aforesaid, and as such to continue and remaine to posterity. . . ."

This order, which established the southern boundary of the county as it is, was reaffirmed by the Act of 1742, Chapter 19, when the line between Somerset and Dorchester counties was said to be down the river from Broad Creek to its mouth.

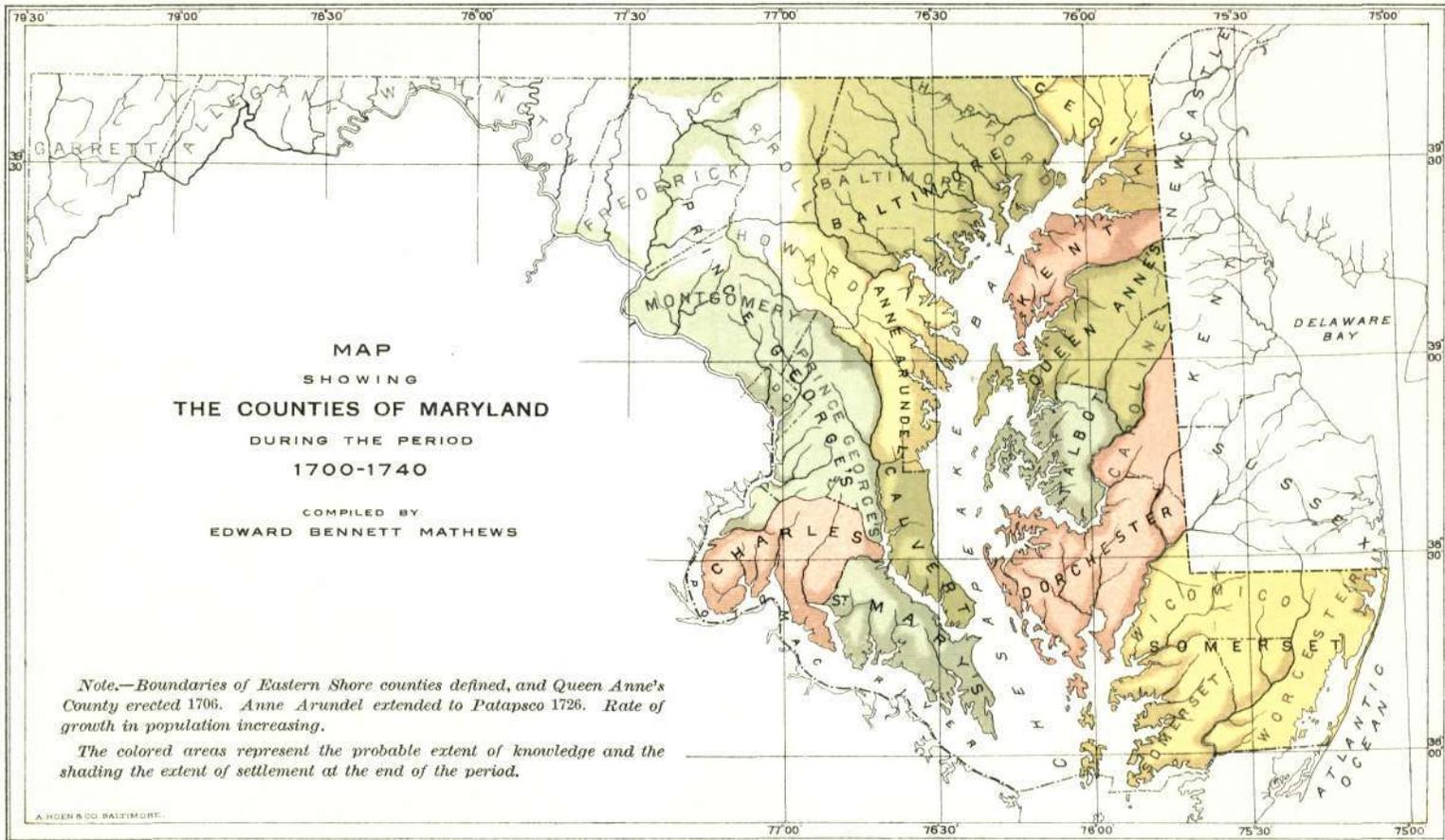
The creation of Queen Anne's County by the Acts of 1706, Chapter 3, which was passed on the 19th of April, 1706, modified the northern boundary of Dorchester County after May 1, 1707 when the Act went into effect. According to this Act it was definitely stated that Sharp's Island belonged to Talbot and not to Dorchester County. The southern boundary of Queen Anne's County was defined as follows:

"Bounded on the South with Talbot county, to Tuckahoe Bridge and from thence with Tuckahoe Creek and Choptank River to the mouth of a branch falling into the said river, called or known by the name of White Marble branch and from thence in a northeast line to the extent of this province."

According to the phrasing of this Act Dorchester would lose all that territory lying between White Marble branch and an easterly line drawn from the head of Choptank River. Since most if not all of this little strip was at this time actually in the possession of the Penns and since the famous Chancery case between the proprietaries of Maryland and Pennsylvania was at that time in Court in England the loss was more apparent than real. A real curtailment of territory did, however, take place in 1773.

A minor change in the Dorchester-Worcester line was made by the General Assembly in 1750.²⁰

²⁰ Acts of 1750, Ch. 15.



MAP
 SHOWING
THE COUNTIES OF MARYLAND
 DURING THE PERIOD
1700-1740
 COMPILED BY
EDWARD BENNETT MATHEWS

Note.—Boundaries of Eastern Shore counties defined, and Queen Anne's County erected 1706. Anne Arundel extended to Patapsco 1726. Rate of growth in population increasing.
 The colored areas represent the probable extent of knowledge and the shading the extent of settlement at the end of the period.

A. HOEN & CO. BALTIMORE.

"Branch running up to widow Owens, late the wife of William Owens, and from thence up the main branch between John Marriotts and Edward Burns shall be the division between the two counties of Dorchester and Worcester."

By the erection of Caroline County out of portions of Dorchester and Queen Anne's counties according to Chapter 10 of the Acts of Assembly of 1773, passed on November 6 of that year, Dorchester County lost control of a fair portion of its territory. This included that portion of Caroline County lying east of the Choptank River and north of the following boundary:

"Beginning at a point on the north side of the mouth of Hunting Creek, in Dorchester County, and from thence running up and with the said Creek to the main road at James Murray's mill, thence with that road by St. Mary's White Chapel parish church to the north-west fork bridge, thence with the main road (that leads to Cannon's ferry) to Nanticoke river, thence with the said river to and with the exterior limits of the aforesaid county of Dorchester to the exterior limits of Queen Anne's County."

It is not easy to determine with certainty the location of these individual points but it is probable that the line laid out in 1773 is the same as that now laid out with the exception of the modifications passed in 1825 and 1880.

The change in the division line between Dorchester and Caroline counties made by Chapter 81 of the Laws of 1825, which was passed on February 17, 1826, was a minor one associated with the change of the public road whose location was altered to "promote the convenience of the public, as well the convenience of the said Mark Noble." Mr. Noble found it inconvenient to have his land lying on either side of the boundary line and accordingly petitioned the Legislature for the alteration which was accordingly made.

The change of boundary authorized by Chapter 208 of the Acts of 1880 arose from the inconvenience produced by the passage of the boundary line through the center of Federalsburg. The division of authority and jurisdiction had occasioned numerous difficulties in connection with the public schools and the administration of justice. The entire voting population residing within the territory transferred petitioned the Assembly that they might be removed from Dorchester to Caroline County. It was accordingly enacted by the Assembly

“That all that part of Dorchester county, to wit: beginning at a point on Main street, in the town of Federalsburg, where Bridge street terminates, and which is an intersection of a boundary between Dorchester county and Caroline county (marked “A” on the plat prepared by John B. Isler, a surveyor of Caroline county, dated January twenty-second, A. D., eighteen hundred and eighty), and thence running with said Main street, which is the present division line of said counties, the following courses, viz: north eight degrees west, thirty-one perches; north thirty degrees west, thirty-nine perches; north forty-six degrees west, thirty-two perches; north forty-six degrees west, thirty-two perches; thence, still with the county road and present boundary line between the said counties, north sixty-one degrees west, twelve perches; north eighty-two degrees west, seventy-six perches and twelve links; north eighty-four and one half degrees west, nineteen perches and twelve links; south fifty-nine degrees west, twenty-two perches and fourteen links; south fifty-four degrees west, fifteen perches and six links; south sixty-seven degrees west, eight perches and nineteen links; south seventy-seven and one half degrees west, thirty-eight perches and nineteen links; south seventy-seven degrees west, twenty-three perches and one link; south eighty degrees west, fourteen perches; north eighty-nine degrees west, twenty-seven perches and ten links; north seventy-seven and one half degrees west, eighteen perches and ten links; north eighty-five and one half degrees west, eighty-one perches and eight links; north seventy-seven degrees west, seventeen perches and seven links; north eighty-one degrees west, twenty-one perches; north sixty-five and one half degrees west, six perches and ten links, to a point in the said county road where a division line between the lands of Wm. A. Allberger and Mrs. Ann Noble terminates; thence, with the same reversed and through the lands of Robert McCrea, A. W. Flowers, John Dickerson, and Mrs. Rose Morris, south four degrees west, four hundred and forty perches, to a county road leading in an easterly direction towards the said town of Federalsburg; thence with the same and bounded thereby, north eighty-nine degrees east, two hundred and twenty perches; south seventy-six and one half degrees east one hundred and twenty perches to the county road from Williamsburg to Federalsburg; thence with the same and bounded thereby, north seventy-five degrees east, twenty perches; south seventy-eight and one half degrees east, twenty-five perches; thence through the lands of Charles Pinyard, south seventy-eight and one half degrees east, forty-three perches, to the northwest fork of the Nanticoke river; thence with the same and its marshes and passing through the land of Charles Pinyard, R. McGee and Charles W. Jefferson; north ten degrees west, thirty-five perches; north five and one half degrees east, forty perches; north three and one half degrees west, eighteen perches; north forty-three degrees east, fourteen perches; north forty-two degrees east, twelve perches; north forty-seven degrees east, nine perches and twelve links; north fifty-six degrees east, ten perches; north thirty-six degrees east, twelve perches; north twenty-eight degrees east, twenty perches; north forty-one degrees east, forty perches, to a point opposite to where Miles Run empties into the northwest fork of the Nanticoke river; thence crossing the said northwest fork south sixty-eight degrees east, ten perches, to a point at or near the mouth of Miles Run; thence with said Miles Run and its meander-

ings (the same being the boundary between the first and twelfth districts of Dorchester county), north thirty-three degrees east, thirty-six perches; north sixty-five degrees east, ten perches; north fifteen degrees east, ten perches; south thirty-eight degrees east, nineteen perches; north five degrees west, sixteen perches; north thirty degrees east, twenty-two perches; south seventy-seven degrees east, twelve perches; south ninety degrees east, twenty-two perches; south seventy-five degrees east, six perches; south twenty-nine degrees east, six perches; south thirty-one degrees east, twelve perches; north seventy-six degrees east, eight perches; north fifty-four degrees east, twelve perches; south eighty-five degrees east, twenty perches, to the county road from Johnson's Cross Roads to Federalsburg, which county road is also the boundary between Dorchester and Caroline counties; and thence with the same and bounded thereby, north thirty-one degrees west, two hundred and thirty-six perches; south eighty-two degrees west, fifty-six perches, to the place of beginning, be transferred to Caroline county, and shall hereafter form a part of the fifth election district of said last named county."

DORCHESTER COUNTY ELECTION DISTRICTS.

- 1798 Ch. 115. County divided into 3 election districts.
 1799 Ch. 48. Confirms Acts of 1798 Ch. 115.
 1799 Ch. 50. Commission appointed to divide county into 3 election districts.
 1816 Ch. 35. County divided into 5 election districts.
 1816 Ch. 127. Commission provisionally appointed to run boundaries and appoint election places.
 1817 Ch. 42. Confirms Acts of 1816 Ch. 35.
 1821 Ch. 166. Polling place in 3d election district to be Levin Woolford's house.
 1821 Ch. 188. County divided into 6 election districts.
 1822 Ch. 2. Confirms Acts of 1821 Ch. 188.
 1822 Ch. 5. Commission appointed to lay off in a single district the "country between the branches of the Nanticoke River commonly called the Fork."
 1823 Ch. 16. Confirms Acts of 1822 Ch. 5.
 1826 Ch. 181. County divided into 7 election districts.
 1826 Ch. 177. Commission appointed to lay off the districts.
 1827 Ch. 2. Confirms Acts of 1826 Ch. 181.
 1828 Ch. 1. County divided into 8 election districts by the division of the 7th district.
 1829 Ch. 1. Confirms Acts of 1828 Ch. 1.
 1829 Ch. 10. Commissioners appointed to divide the Cambridge or 7th election district into two election districts.
 1831 Ch. 40. Part of the 3d election district annexed to the 2d district.
 "Beginning at the forks of the road at Minons old field, and running down and binding with the road leading to Cratchens Ferry, to Thomas Davidson's school house, thence with a private road by said school house; and

- through the divisional lane between said Davidsons and Elijah Bunsfield, to the road leading from Vienna to New Market, thence with said road to the place of beginning."
- 1831 Ch. 135. Polling place of 4th election district changed to Parson's Creek.
- 1836 Ch. 69. Line between 4th and 5th election districts leading from Keene's Crossroads to Jones bridge, commonly called the Great Marsh bridge in Dorchester County changed to run from the said Keene's cross roads, with a straight line, to a place called Burton's Landing, and from thence south-west, until it shall intersect the line of the sixth election district.
- 1838 Ch. 212. Line between 4th and 7th election districts near Church Creek changed as follows:
 "Beginning at a bridge near the Storehouse, formerly the property of Isaac & Williams, on Church creek in Dorchester county, then to run in a southerly direction, to the head of a branch called Hudwin's Branch, then with said branch to Button's Creek, then with Button's creek to blackwater river, and all that part of district number four, lying to the north and east of the above given line, shall be attached to and form a part of district number seven."
- 1840 Ch. 114. Polling place of 4th election district to be at Richard Tall's.
- 1844 Ch. 298. Voters to decide on polling place in Lake's district.
- 1846 Ch. 239. Line for 1st election district changed as follows:
 "Beginning at the bridge over the north-west fork, branch or prong of Nanticoke river, at Federalsburg, thence down said branch or prong to the mouth of Harrison's Mill creek, thence up said creek to the dam of said mill, thence with the county road to Nicoll's Cross Roads, thence with the main road to intersect a road leading from Crotcher's ferry to the town of Vienna, thence to the nearest point on Chicone branch, thence with the meanderings of said branch to the main road leading from the Walnut landing to Vienna, and from thence with said main road to the aforesaid north-west fork, branch or prong of Nanticoke river."
- 1852 Ch. 117. Erects additional election district to be known as Church Creek district No. 9 with bounds as follows:
 "Commencing on the county road leading from Church Creek to Cambridge, at the junction of the road leading to Little Black Water road, commonly called and known as Hurley's New road, and running with Hurley's new road to the point of intersection with the Little Black Water road, and thence continuing in a straight line to the Little Black Water river, thence down and with Little Black Water river to Big Black Water river, thence with

said Big Black Water river to the road leading to the Baptist Meeting House, thence with said road to the county road leading to Taylor's Island, thence with said county road to the head of Broad Cove, thence with said cove to the river, thence following the Fishing Creek branch until it comes opposite Hurley's new road, or place of beginning."

- 1852 Ch. 174. Erects additional election district out of 5th election district to be known as Strait's Neck district or district number ten, bounded as follows:

"Beginning at the head of Fox Creek, at or near Stapleford's wind mill, thence running to the county road to Holme's front gate, thence running with said road to the Black Water road, thence running and binding with said Black Water road to Fearim Creek bridge and from thence running down said Fearim creek to Fishing bay, thence running so as to include all the islands in and near the mouth of the Nanticoke river, belonging to Dorchester county, and in the fifth election district, to the line dividing Dorchester and Somerset counties, thence with said line down said river and Fishing bay, the Tangier sound and Holland straits, to the Chesapeake bay, thence with said bay, Hooper's Straits, Honga river, and Fox creek to the place of beginning. The place of holding elections to be at Todd town."

- 1854 Ch. 256. Erects an additional election district with the following bounds:

"Beginning at the bridge over Transquaking river, a little below Higgins' mills, thence running with the country road by Middletown, or Manning's road, to the drawbridge over Chicamacomico river, at Manning's store, then with and up said river until it comes to a point or place on said river opposite to the road running to Nanticoke river, known as the Hard or Craft's road, then with a straight line to said Hard road, then running with said Hard or Craft's road to the Nanticoke river to the public landing, a little south of Vicker's wharf, then down the said river so as to include all the islands belonging in the third election district, then to the mouth of Transquaking river, then up the said river to the place of beginning."

- 1858 Ch. 198. Changes polling place of 6th election district from Fishing creek ferry to the store of Robert H. Creighton.

- 1858 Ch. 235. Erects 12th election district out of No. 2 as follows:

"Beginning at the bridge over the Nanticoke river, at Federalsburg, thence with the county road that separates Dorchester from Caroline county, to Hunting Creek, thence with said Creek to Choptank river, thence with said river to Blink Horn Creek, thence with said creek to its head,

or until it intersects the county road leading from Cabin creek to Hunting creek, thence with the Manor line to Washington chapel, thence with the aforesaid line and road that divides the lands of Nathan Williams from Thomas A. Price, Nicholas Wright from Stephen Andrews and James M. Hurlock, thence following the plain road leading to Henry D. Wright's Mill and branch, thence with said branch to the Nanticoke river, thence with said river to the place of beginning."

1860 Ch. 165. Commission appointed to run and define boundary line between Somerset and Dorchester counties.

1861 Ch. 99. County divided into 13 districts. The old districts confirmed except in the case of the 7th district which is divided as follows:

"Beginning at the mouth of Black Water River and running up said river until it comes to the fork of the same; then with the east branch up to Maple dam bridge, then with the county road southerly, until it intersects David M. Corkrans road, then with said road to Martin's road, then by and with Martin's road until it intersects the county road leading from Bucktown to Cambridge, at or near Levin Mowbray's gate, then with said road leading from Bucktown to Cambridge north until it intersects the Cordtown road, then with the Cordtown road until it intersects the road leading from Vienna to Cambridge, then with said road to the corner of Doct. Curt's oat-field, and intersecting a road leading from the Cambridge and Vienna road to Airies, then by and with said road to Transquaking bridge, then with the Transquaking river to its mouth."

1862 Ch. 168. Erects an additional election district with the following bounds:

"Beginning at the bridge on the main branch of the Nanticoke river, at Federalsburg, thence with the county road that separates Dorchester from Caroline County, to Hunting Creek, thence with said creek to Choptank river, thence with said river to Blink Horn Creek, thence with said creek to its head or until it intersects the county road leading from Cabin Creek to Hunting Creek, thence with the Manor line to Washington Chapel, thence with the aforesaid line and road that divides the lands of Nathan Williams from Thomas A. Trice, Nicholas Wright from Stephen Andrews and James M. Hurlock, thence following the plain road leading to Henry D. Wright's Mill and branch, thence with said branch to the main branch of the Nanticoke river, thence with said river to the mouth of Miles branch, thence with said branch to the county road leading from Johnson's Cross Roads to Federalsburg, thence with said county road to the place of beginning."

- 1864 Ch. 60. Enacts that all that part of 10th or Straight's District, lying south of Hooper's Straights, in Dorchester county, shall compose one district, called 14, or Holland's Island District.
- 1872 Ch. 75. Enacts that the district called fourteen, or Holland's Island district, formed from all that part of number ten, or Straight's district, lying south of Hooper's Straights, in Dorchester county, is hereby re-annexed and consolidated into a part and portion of election district number ten, or Straight's district.
- 1872 Ch. 156. 12th election district bounded as follows:
"Beginning at the bridge, on the main branch of the Nanticoke river at Federalsburg, thence with the county road that separates Dorchester from Caroline county to Upper Hunting Creek, thence up and with said creek until it intersects Lower Hunting Creek, thence up and with said creek to its head or until it intersects the county road leading from Upper Hunting Creek to Cabin Creek, thence with said road until it intersects the manor line, thence with said line to Washington Chapel, thence with the aforesaid line and road that divided the lands of Nathan Williams from Thomas A. Trice, Nicholas Wright, from Stephen Andrews and James M. Hurlock, thence following the plan road leading to Henry D. Wright's mill and branch thence with said branch to the main branch of the Nanticoke river, thence with said river to the mouth of Mile's branch, thence with said branch to the county road leading from Johnson's cross roads to Federalsburg, thence with said country road to the place of beginning."
- 1880 Ch. 208. Changes boundary line and transfers certain territory and population from Dorchester to Caroline county.
- 1880 Ch. 456. 14th or Linkwood election district established from 3d, 7th, and 11th election districts with bounds as follows:
"Beginning at the end of the Tates Bank road where it reaches the Great Choptank river, thence following said road until it intersects the road leading from Cambridge to Hicksburg; thence with said last named road until it reaches Jacktown; thence following the road from Jacktown to Bucktown, until it intersects the boundary line between district number seven or Cambridge district, and district number thirteen or Bucktown district, where it crosses said road; thence with the boundary line between the two last named districts until it reaches the Transquakin bridge beyond Airey's; then following the Transquakin river to the mouth of Dumpling Point creek; thence up said creek and branch to the county road at Middletown; thence with the county road leading to Salem, to Jones' Baptist Church; thence by the county road lead-

ing by the Little Birch mill to the new county road passing over Payne's mill pond; thence with the said new county road until it intersects the road leading from Hicksburg to East New Market; thence with the last named road in the direction of Hicksburg, to the forks of the road leading to Indian creek; thence with the Indian creek to the Great Choptank river; and thence down said river to the place of beginning."

1884 Ch. 362. Dividing election district 7 into two election precincts.

"Commencing at the centre of the outer end of Thomas' wharf, thence running with the centre of High street to Poplar street, thence with the centre of Poplar street to Race street, thence with the centre of Race street to the town limits, thence with the centre of the County Road to Maple Dam bridge, thence with the county road to Lot's lane, thence with Lot's lane to the limits of Cambridge district, and all that part of said election district number seven, or Cambridge, lying to the east of said line, shall be known as east Cambridge, or first precinct . . . and all that part of said election district seven, or Cambridge, lying west of said line, shall be known as west Cambridge, or second precinct."

1890 Ch. 276. Creates a new precinct in Cambridge or 7th election district, to be known as the third or Dailsville precinct, bounded as follows:

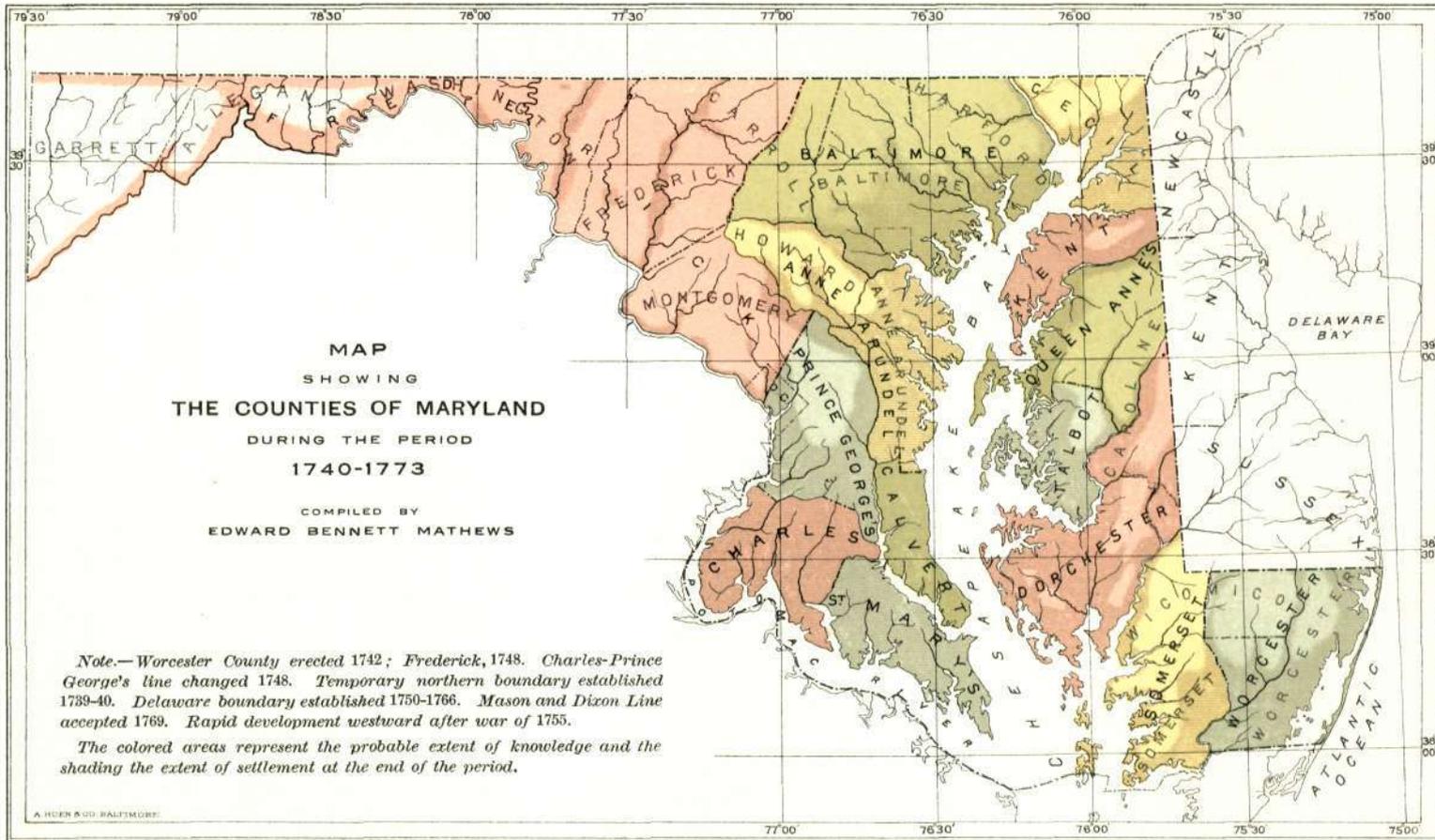
"Commencing at the mouth of Jenkins' creek; thence running with the centre of said creek and the branch that divides the Chamberlaine farm to the county road; thence in about a southern direction to a point in the centre of the Bayly road opposite the residence of Thos. Woolford colored; thence with the Bayly road and Church creek road, to limit of Church creek, or number nine election district of said county, the precinct hereby created being a part of the present western precinct."

1892 Ch. 565. Divides 4th election district into two precincts as follows:

". . . all that part of said fourth or Parson's Creek district eastward of a line, beginning at the head waters of Parson's Creek and running with Stuart's canal to its intersection with the head waters of Black Water River, and with said river to the Big Water Bridge shall constitute the first or Madison precinct . . . and all that part lying westward of said line shall constitute the second or Taylor's Island precinct."

1894 Ch. 491. 15th or Hurlock election district established with the following boundary:

"Beginning at the mouth of Benjamin Conway's Mill Creek, thence up said creek, mill pond, and branch to the county road to the Baltimore and Eastern Shore Railroad,



MAP
 SHOWING
THE COUNTIES OF MARYLAND
 DURING THE PERIOD
1740-1773

COMPILED BY
EDWARD BENNETT MATHEWS

Note.—Worcester County erected 1742; Frederick, 1748. Charles-Prince George's line changed 1748. Temporary northern boundary established 1739-40. Delaware boundary established 1750-1766. Mason and Dixon Line accepted 1769. Rapid development westward after war of 1755.

The colored areas represent the probable extent of knowledge and the shading the extent of settlement at the end of the period.

A. HORN & CO. BALTIMORE.

thence with said county road to the line dividing Caroline and Dorchester counties, thence with said line to the Choptank river, thence with said river to Wright's wharf and thence with the public county road to Blinkborn School House, then up Cabin Creek to the house where C. H. Prouse now resides, thence with the county road to a pond known as Bonner's bay, then down the branch and mill stream to Upper Cabin creek mill, until it crosses the county road leading from Cabin creek to Shilo church, and with said road to the county road leading from East New Market to Rhodesdale, and with said road to the fork district line, and with said line to the Nanticoke river, and up said river to the place of beginning."

1894 Ch. 601. Divides 4th or Parson's Creek Election district into two districts.

"The fourth or Parson's Creek election district of Dorchester county . . . is hereby divided into two election districts, to be called district No. 4 or Parson's creek district, and district No. 16 or Madison district; and that all that part of the said fourth or Parson's creek district westward of a line beginning with the head waters of Parson's creek and running with Stewart's canal to its intersection with the head waters of Black Water river, and with said river to the Big Black Water bridge, shall constitute the new district No. 4, or Parson's creek district, with the voting place on Taylor's Island; and all that part of said fourth or Parson's creek district lying to the eastward of said line of division shall constitute the 16th or Madison district, and the voting place shall be at Madison."

1896 Ch. 227. Creates a new precinct in Strait's or 10th election district to be known as the 2d or Holland's Island precinct.

". . . it shall consist of all that part of said Tenth election district lying south of Hooper's Straits of said county, the precinct hereby created being the extreme southern part of the present Strait's district, and the voting place for said second or Holland's Island precinct shall be at Holland's Island."

1898 Ch. 418. 3d precinct in Straits or 10th election district to be known as the 3rd or Elliott's Island precinct.

"It shall consist of all that part of said tenth election district lying east of Fishing Bay, and known as Elliott's Island, and the voting place shall be at Elliott's Island."

1900 Ch. 669. Changes the name of Parson's Creek election district to Taylor's Island election district.

1904 Ch. 555. Changes the line between election districts 15 and 2.

"Beginning at the mouth of Cabin creek and thence running up said Cabin creek to Lower Cabin creek mill, thence

up Cabin creek mill ponds and stream and branch until said stream or branch intersects the county road leading from Cabin creek village to Shiloh church, thence with said road to the county road leading from East New Market to Rhodesdale, and thence with said to the Forks District line."

1906 Ch. 494. Erects 17th election district out of parts of 3d, 11th, and 14th election districts.

"Beginning at the bridge on the county road at Little Brick Mills, and following the mill stream southward to the Chicacomico river; thence with said river southward to the Transquakin river; thence following said Transquakin river northward to Dumpling Point; thence northward with the center line of the branch known as Middletown Branch to the double bridges at Middletown; thence westward to the junction of the Linkwood road at the Middletown schoolhouse; thence with said road northward to the junction of the road leading from Salem to Linkwood; thence with said road westward to the mouth of the road known as the Red Lane; thence northward with said Red Lane road to the road leading from Little Brick Mills to Hawkeye; thence eastward with said Little Brick Mills road to the road leading from the old Baptist meeting house to the Little Brick Mills; thence northward to the place of beginning."

FREDERICK COUNTY.

The earliest settlements in Frederick County were made along the Monocacy River and date from the early part of the eighteenth century, some authorities claiming the first settlements to have been made as early as 1710. There were, however, no permanent settlements of any importance within the limits of the present Frederick County prior to the fifth decade of the eighteenth century. At this time many Germans from Pennsylvania found their way southward along the old Monocacy trail and settled in the fertile valley of the Monocacy in the vicinity of Grayson, Creagerstown, and Frederick. The growth in population in this region was very rapid and by 1748 it appeared wise to erect a new county for their accommodation. The act by which this was decreed enacted that

"Beginning at the lower Side of the Mouth of *Rock* Creek, and thence by a strait Line joining to the East Side of *Seth Hyatt's* Plantation, to *Patuxent* River . . . then with *Patuxent* River to the Lines of Baltimore County, and

with the said County to the Extent of the Province; and that all the Land lying to the Westward and Southward of the said Lines be included in the new County aforesaid, and that after the Commencement of this Act the said new County shall be called *Frederick County*. . . .”

Up to this time there had been little or no conflict between the settlements along the western border of Baltimore and the eastern side of Prince George's County. With the rapid influx of settlers from Pennsylvania and their easterly extension from the Monocacy valley over what is now western Carroll County, it became necessary to more sharply define the western boundary of Baltimore County. It was therefore enacted in 1750, Chapter 13, that the boundary between Frederick and Baltimore counties should be as follows:

“Beginning at a spring called Parr's Spring, and running from thence N. 35° E. to a bounded white oak standing on the west side of a waggon road, called John Digges's road, about a mile above a place called Burnthouse Woods, and running thence up the said road to a bounded white oak, standing on the east side thereof, at the head of a draught of Sam's creek; thence N. 55° E. to a Spanish oak standing on a ridge near William Robert's, and opposite to the head of a branch called the Beaver-Dam, and running thence N. 20° E. to the temporary line between the provinces of Maryland and Pennsylvania, being near the head of a draught called Conewago, at a rocky hill called Rattle Snake Hill;”

The location of this eastern boundary of Frederick County cannot be determined with entire accuracy but certain of the early maps of the State show it approximately as represented on the accompanying plate for this date. No change appears to have been made in this line until the erection of Carroll County nearly a century later.

Up to the outbreak of the Revolutionary War no further change was made in the limits of Frederick County. Permanent settlements of Germans had in the meantime been made at Middletown, Taneytown, Sharpsburg, Thurmont, Union Bridge, Emmitsburg and Woodsboro as well as in the Hagerstown valley. At the Constitutional Convention of 1776 it was decided to divide this widely extended and now more or less populous Frederick County into three counties, Washington, Montgomery, and Frederick, corresponding to the Upper, Lower, and Middle Districts of Frederick County. The line of separation determined by this Convention was as follows: From the mouth of the Monocacy a straight line

was drawn to Parris Spring, or the headwaters of the Patuxent, and the portion of Frederick County lying to the south and east was assigned to Montgomery County. The second line ran along the crest of South Mountain from the temporary line to the Potomac River. All the territory lying west of this was assigned to Washington County. In this way Frederick County was limited on the north, west, south, and south-east by its present bounds. Its eastern boundary was modified by the erection of Carroll County in 1836, and again in 1838 when the boundary lines were defined as running from Rocky Creek, one of the headwaters of the Monocacy River as it crosses the State line, thence with the said creek until the same is merged into the Monocacy River, thence with the latter to the mouth of Double Pipe Creek, thence up Double Pipe Creek to the mouth of Little Pipe Creek, thence with the latter stream to the mouth of Sams Creek, which it follows to its head.

FREDERICK COUNTY ELECTION DISTRICTS.

- 1798 Ch. 115. County divided into 7 election districts.
 1799 Ch. 48. Confirms Acts of 1798 Ch. 115.
 1799 Ch. 50. Commission appointed to divide county into 7 election districts.
 1802 Ch. 82. County divided into 9 election districts.
 1803 Ch. 19. Confirms Acts of 1802 Ch. 82.
 1803 Ch. 46. Commission appointed to lay off county in 9 election districts who report to the County Clerk.
 1821 Ch. 35. County laid off and divided into 11 election districts.
 1822 Ch. 6. Confirms Acts of 1821 Ch. 35.
 1824 Ch. 13. Commission appointed to lay off election districts authorized.
 1824 Ch. 84. 3d election district divided into two precincts.
 1826 Ch. 31. Erects additional election district from parts of the 6th and 7th districts to be known as the 12th election district [apparently not confirmed].
 1826 Ch. 188. Supplementary commission appointed.
 1829 Ch. 168. Erects additional election district from parts of the 3d election district to be known as the 12th election district. Commission appointed subject to confirmation.
 1830 Ch. 35. Erects additional election district from parts of the 6th and 7th election districts to be known as the 12th election district.
 1830 Ch. 146. Confirms Acts of 1829 Ch. 168.
 1831 Ch. 112. Erects two additional election districts, the 13th and 14th.
 1832 Ch. 165. Confirms Acts of 1831 Ch. 112 and appoints two commissioners to lay out the bounds.

- 1834 Ch. 27. Erects a 13th election district by a Commission.
- 1834 Ch. 213. Supplemental act filling vacancy caused by death.
- 1835 Ch. 256. Carroll County erected from parts of Frederick and Baltimore counties.
- 1836 Ch. 91. Confirms units of districts 1, 2, 14, 15, 3, 10, 4, 5, 11 as existing before Act of 1835 Ch. 256 and that the limits of districts 9 and 8 shall remain the same except insofar as modified by the lines of Carroll County.
- 1843 Ch. 323. Commissioners appointed to lay off a new district [15?] from Frederick and Creagerstown districts.
- 1847 Ch. 52. Commissioners appointed to lay off new district [16?] from parts of Hauvers and Middletown election districts.
- 1847 Ch. 147. Commissioners appointed to lay off a new district [17?] from parts of Buckeystown and New Market election districts.
- 1852 Ch. 100. Commission appointed to lay off and establish new election district out of parts of 8th, 9th and 11th districts.
"Commencing at the mouth of the Linganore Creek, thence up said creek to the head of William Jones' Mill dam, thence with a straight line as near as may be to Jacob Harmiss' dwelling house on the road leading from Liberty town, to Bigg's Ford on the Monocacy River, thence down said river to the place of beginning."
- 1852 Ch. 261. Beginning at the Frederick district line above George Blessing's, and running thence in a straight line, as near as practicable to intersect the Catoctin Creek, where the road leading from Smithburg to Frederick city crosses said creek, excluding the aforesaid George Blessing's dwelling; thence to the bridge lately built across the branch coming from Palmer's mill, on the road leading from the old Hagerstown road to Wolfville; thence to intersect the Washington county line above Jacob Renners including said Renner, thence with said Washington county line until it intersects the turnpike leading from Frederick to Hagerstown, thence to Shoemaker's school house; thence to Koogle's school house; thence to intersect the road leading from Beallsville to Middletown at Kennet's mill; thence to intersect the Frederick district line above George W. Sumners; thence with the said Frederick district line to the point first mentioned above."
- 1852 Ch. 279. Commissioners appointed to erect new election district out of Cregerstown, Emmittsburg, and Hauvers districts.
"Beginning at the summit of the Catoctin mountain, near the furnace, and running thence to a point near the blacksmith shop of Michael Zimmerman, thence from said shop along the public road to Thomas Metcalfe's land, thence with a straight line to John R. Boller's house, including said house, and the village of Graceham, thence along the public road leading from Mechanicsburg to the

Emmitsburg cross road, thence along the Emmitsburg road to a point where the branch, known as Beaver Dam, crosses said road, thence in a straight line to a point north of John A. Martin's house, thence in a northern direction to William Boller's farm, thence with the Emmitsburg road, leading to Wolf's tavern, to the cross roads from Mechanicstown to Sabellesville, thence with a straight line to Harman's farm, thence with the south side of the road to the new cut road, near Gat's farm, and thence with a straight line to the place of beginning."

- 1854 Ch. 143. Erects a new election district [19?] as follows:
 "Commencing at or near the stone bridge across Pipe Creek, near Diffendall's Mill; thence by the most suitable line to some point at or near Ladiesburg; thence by the most suitable line to the Hill School House; thence to some point at or near the Copper Mine School House; thence with the Copper Mine Road, to some point at or near Nicholas Norris's farm, from thence to Sam's creek, the dividing line between Frederick and Carroll counties, and thence with said dividing line to the place of beginning."
- 1856 Ch. 168. Divides the 2d election district into two precincts "by a line running from the Frederick and Woodsborough Turnpike Bridge, with the Turnpike road to Frederick City, and thence through Market street of said City, with the Turnpike road to the Monocacy Bridge; on the Georgetown Turnpike road."
- 1860 Ch. 332. Transfers portions of Buckeystown and Frederick districts to the Jefferson district by the following lines:
 "Commencing at the top of Catoctin mountain, between the property of William Hurshberger and Henry Culler, at the county road, and running thence with said road to the Frederick and Harpers Ferry Ridge road, at Mrs. Stockman's, and thence between the property of William Smith and William Hargate; thence between the property of John and Daniel Snider; thence in a straight line between the property of Jacob Remsburg and Hamilton Gisbert, and thence to strike the branch at the Georgetown road; thence along said road, at the foot of the mountain, to the Trammelstown road, and thence up said road to the top of the mountain, to the district line between Jefferson and Buckeystown districts."
- 1861 Ch. 74. Divides the western precinct of election district No. 2 into two precincts.
- 1862 Ch. 53. Divides the 2d election district into 2 precincts and repeals Acts of 1861 Ch. 74.
- 1862 Ch. 149. Polling place of 10th election district changed to Smithfield School House.

- 1872 Ch. 179. Defines the boundary of the 18th election district as follows:
"Commencing at the junction of the Buffalo Road and Talbot's Branch; thence running with said branch to the crossing of the Unionville and Linganore Public Road; thence with said road to the old Annapolis Road to the intersection of the New Market Road; thence with said road to Forrest Grove School House; thence with a straight line to the reservoir on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad known as number thirteen; thence to the tobacco house on the Kemptown Road, formerly owned by Brook Buckstone; thence with the Buffalo Road to the place of beginning."
- 1872 Ch. 204. Divides the 2d election district into 4 precincts.
- 1878 Ch. 179. Additional election district, No. 19, erected from part of No. 8 with the following bounds:
"Beginning at a white oak tree at the intersection of the Coppermine road with the Johnsville District line, running thence south to the spring-house of Henry Carter, thence with spring branch to New Liberty road, thence south to the bend in the public road west of the dwelling house of William H. Baker, thence with said public road until it intersects the Woodville District line, thence with said line to the Carroll county line, thence with said Carroll county line until it intersects Johnsville District line, thence with said line to the place of beginning."
- 1878 Ch. 250. Additional election district, No. 20, erected from portions of 2d and 3d election districts with bounds as follows:
"Beginning at the southwest corner of Mechanicstown district line and running with said election district line, bearing slightly southeast, to the crossing of the road leading from Eicholtz's mills to Lewistown, at a point near the dwelling-house of A. G. P. Wiles, thence in a southeasterly direction to the Woodsborough election district line on the Monocacy river, touching the north corner of George L. Devilbiss' dwelling-house, and with the Woodsborough election district line on a southerly course to Bigg's ford on the Monocacy river, thence bearing a northwesterly course to the north corner of Bethel church, thence bearing still a northwesterly course to intersect the Catoctin election district line at a point where said line strikes the Hamburg road, and thence with Catoctin district line in a northerly direction to the place of beginning, the territory included within these boundaries to be known by the name of Lewistown District or election district number twenty."
- 1884 Ch. 149. Additional election district, No. 21, erected from a portion of the 2d election district.
"Commencing at the northeast corner of Frederick election district number two, and thence running with the

western boundary of said district to its intersection with the Shookstown road; thence with the middle of said road to its junction with the county road leading by the artesian wells; thence from the said junction to the southeast corner of Edward Kemp's dwelling-house; thence with a straight line to the centre of the bridge over the creek at Aubert's fording on the Rocky Spring road; thence with a straight line to the junction of the county road leading past Charles T. F. Howard's with the road leading to Parson's (formerly Getzendanner's) mill; thence with said road in its centre to the mouth of the lane leading to Frederick and Emmittsburg turnpike; thence from the mouth of said lane with a straight line to the boundary of the Lewistown election district at its intersection with the county road leading by and from D. Lunday's limekilns to the Frederick and Emmittsburg turnpike; thence from said intersection in a northwesterly direction with the dividing line between Frederick election district number two and Lewistown district number twenty to the first mentioned place of beginning on the Catoctin mountain, said election district to be called Tuscarora district or election district number twenty-one."

1888 Ch. 217. Gives County Commissioners power to create new election districts whenever in their judgement necessity arises.

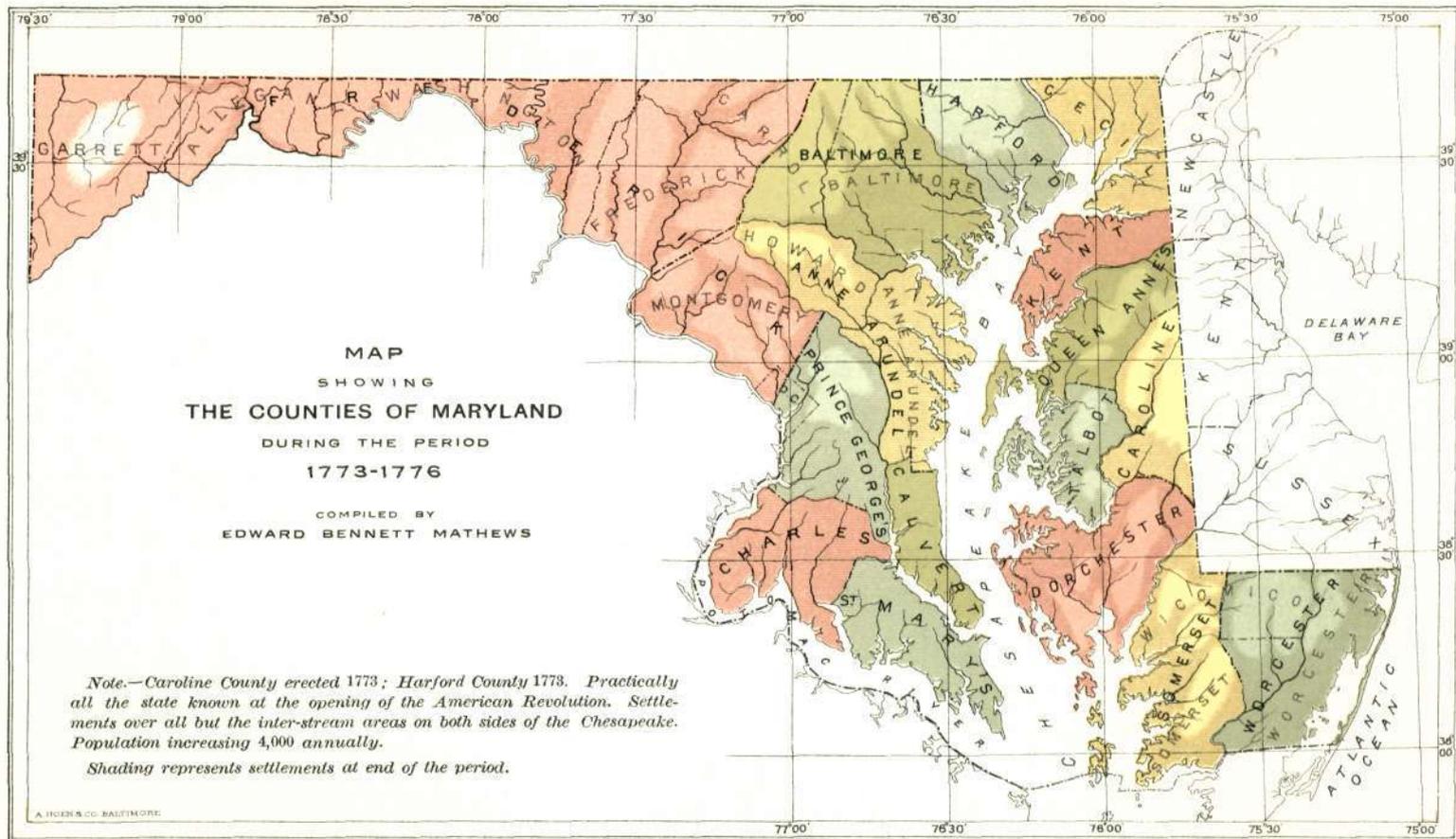
1894 Ch. 78. Divides the 12th election district into two precincts, the first coextensive with the town of Brunswick.

1896 Ch. 401. Additional election district, No. 22, erected from portions of the 3d and 12th election districts with the following bounds:

"Beginning on the line dividing Frederick and Washington counties, on South Mountain, at a point known as White Rock; from thence running in a southeasterly direction to the Catoctin creek, in a southerly direction to where the Broad Run creek enters said Catoctin creek; then up the Broad Run creek to the entrance of a branch running from Harley's or "Boone's" pond; from thence with said branch to where it crosses the road leading from Burkittsville to Petersville; thence with said road to the entrance to Gouveneur road; thence with said Gouveneur road westwardly across the Burkittsville and Knoxville road in a straight line to the top South Mountain at the dividing line between Frederick and Washington counties; thence with said mountain and dividing line to the place of beginning."

1898 Ch. 155. Additional election district, No. 24, erected from a portion of the 2d election district with the following bounds:

"Beginning on the Catoctin mountain, at a point where Jefferson district or election district No. 14 and Middletown district or election district No. 3 join on the bound-



ary of Frederick district or election district No. 2; thence running easterly with the line of "Ballenger district" No. 23 to the southeast corner of the Mount Philip farm house; thence northeasterly with the line of the said "Ballenger district," at the southeast corner of Frederick Orland's dwelling house; thence northerly following the road of the said Frederick Orland to the public road known as "Butterfly Lane" thence northeastwardly by a straight line to the Baltimore and Fredericktown turnpike road at the entrance to a private road or lane leading into the premises of W. W. Mines, on said turnpike; thence by and with the middle of said lane northwardly in a straight line to a point one hundred yards northeast of said W. W. Mines' residence; thence from said point due north by a straight line until it intersects the southern outlines of Tuscarora election district No. 21; thence by and with said outline westwardly to where it intersects the dividing line between Middletown and Frederick district, aforesaid; thence by and with the line or lines between said districts to the place of beginning." To be known as "Braddock district or No. 24."

1898 Ch. 203. Additional election district, No. 23, erected from parts of the 1st, 2d, and 14th election districts with the following bounds:

"Beginning on the Catoctin Mountain at a point where Jefferson district, or Election District No. 14, and Middletown district, or Election District No. 3, join on the boundary of Frederick district, or Election District No. 2; thence running easterly with the line of Braddock District No. 24 to the southeast corner of the Mount Philip farm house; thence northeasterly with the lines of the said "Braddock District" to the southeast corner of Frederick Oland's dwelling house; thence northerly following the road of the said Frederick Oland to the public road known as "Butterfly Lane"; thence easterly with said road until it reaches the Frederick and Jefferson turnpike road in a northeasterly direction until it intersects the Frederick and Ballenger's creek turnpike road; then with said Frederick and Ballenger creek turnpike road and the Point of Rocks road until it intersects the road leading from said Point of Rocks road to the Red Hill school house road, and continuing with said road until it reaches the Frederick and Jefferson turnpike road, near the second tollgate on said turnpike road on the summit of Catoctin mountain; then with the summit of said mountain in a northerly direction through Jefferson Election District No. 2 to the place of beginning To be known as Ballenger District or Election District No. 23."

1898 Ch. 230. Dividing election district No. 5 into two precincts.

"The fifth election district of Frederick county, commonly known as Emmittsburg district, is divided into two separate and distinct voting or election precincts as determined by a division line beginning at the Pennsylvania State line in the middle of the public road leading from Emmittsburg in said district to Gettysburg, in the State of Pennsylvania, and running thence by a southerly course along the middle of said road to the fountain in the public square at Emmittsburg and Frederick Turnpike to the first toll gate thereon, and thence along the middle of the Emmittsburg and Creagerstown public road to the southern line or boundary of said district; and all that part of said district lying west of said division line shall be and constitute precinct No. 1, and all that part lying east of said line shall be and constitute precinct No. 2 of said district."

1904 Ch. 85. Additional election district, No. 25, established from 2d precinct of No. 12 election district.

"That the boundaries of the said "Brunswick District" or "Election District No. 25" shall be the corporate limits of the town of Brunswick and coincident with the limits of the second voting precinct of said District No. 12, as the same were fixed by the Acts of 1894 Ch. 78.

1904 Ch. 596. Additional election district No. [26] erected from portions of the 11th and 13th election districts with the following bounds:

"Beginning at a point on the Monocacy river, in Woodsborough District, or Election District No. 11, now known as Link's ford, and running with the east bank of said river to the Frederick and Woodsborough turnpike bridge, over said river known as the Ceresville bridge; then with said Frederick and Woodsborough turnpike road to the place where said turnpike road intersects the Frederick and Libertytown turnpike road; then with the center of said Frederick and Libertytown turnpike road to the covered bridge over Israel's creek, known as Creamer's bridge; then with the west bank of said Israel's creek to the public road known as Johnson's lane; then with said public road to a point where the said public road intersects the public road known as the Ridge road, leading from Morgan's mill to the village of Mount Pleasant; then in a straight line to a point where the public road known as the Dutrow road intersects the public road known as Water street road; then with said Dutrow road to a point where said road intersects the public road leading from Libertytown to the Frederick and Woodsborough turnpike road known as the Middle road, being a point on the line

of the Liberty District, or Election District No. 8; then with said Liberty and Mount Pleasant District line to a point on said line at the southeastern corner of James Boane's land; then with the Woodsborough District line to a point where the said line intersects the Bostian's Mill public road at a point near Charles Nolley's residence; then in a straight line from said public road to a point on the Woodsborough and Frederick turnpike road known as Smith's School House; then in a straight line from the place of beginning to be known as Walkersville District."

GARRETT COUNTY.

Garrett County, although foreshadowed in the Constitution of 1850, is the youngest of the major political divisions of the State, having been erected by Act of Assembly in 1872. According to this Act provision was made for taking a vote of the people in the fall of 1872 as to whether or not they would erect a new county. The section of the Act defining the boundaries decreed

That all that part of Allegany county lying south and west of a line beginning at the summit of Big Back Bone, or Savage Mountain, where that mountain is crossed by Mason's and Dixon's line, running thence by a straight line to the middle of Savage River where it empties into the Potomac River; thence by a straight line to the nearest point or boundary of the State of West Virginia; then with the said boundary to the Fairfax Stone shall be a new county, to be called the county of Garrett.

The boundaries defined by this Act consist of three straight lines on the west, north, and east, and the Potomac River on the south. It would, therefore, seem that no difficulties could arise regarding the boundaries of Garrett County and yet few counties within the State have had as much trouble with the determination of their boundary lines during a single generation as has fallen to Garrett County in its 30 years of existence. The difficulties have been almost entirely with the eastern and western boundaries, the northern and southern offering little occasion for controversy.

Soon after Garrett County was set off from Allegany an attempt was made to mark the line of separation. The County Surveyor of Allegany County ran a trial line by the compass from the mouth of Savage River

to the Mason and Dixon line, which was intersected on Little Savage Mountain 4307 feet west of Big Savage Mountain, the point called for in the Act erecting the county. This line was marked by blazed trees and has been known as the old or Chisolm line. Six years later John Harned, County Surveyor of Garrett County, using similar methods, attempted to determine the true location of the line. Unlike his predecessor, he started at the summit of Big Savage Mountain and ran southward hoping to intersect the Potomac River at the mouth of Savage River, but his line reached the Potomac near Westernport. Neither line conformed to the demands of the original Act. Accordingly an Act was passed by the General Assembly in 1898 authorizing the Governor to procure a surveyor to run the line defined by the original Act. In accordance with this enactment a new line was run by L. A. Bauer, acting for the Maryland Geological Survey, who was assisted in his work by surveyors representing Allegany and Garrett counties. The method employed was that of triangulation with all the refinements commanded by modern geodetic practice. The line finally marked was a straight line intersecting the two terminal points as required by the law.

Subsequent to the running of the Brown-Bauer line its validity was questioned. An Act was passed by the Legislature of 1906 to the effect that the inhabitants living west of the line should vote upon its acceptance or non-acceptance. Since the Act did not specify the places where the inhabitants of the disputed territory should vote when transferred the validity of the line is still in question. Thus the eastern boundary of Garrett County is neither a straight line as called for by the original Act nor a crooked line connecting the two terminal points as originally defined.

The western boundary of Garrett County is also in dispute due to the fact that it is at the same time the western boundary of Maryland. According to the original charter to Lord Baltimore granted in 1632 the western limit of Maryland was to be a line running due north from the first fountain of the Potomac. When the region was a wilderness and but little known it was supposed that the head of the North Branch of the Potomac was situated at the Fairfax Stone and lines have accordingly been drawn north from this point which have served as the western

boundary of the county. The line generally accepted has been that run by Lieut. Michler in 1859-60 in accordance with a joint resolution passed by the legislatures of Maryland and Virginia. Since that time attention has been called to the fact that a true north line drawn from this point would cross the Potomac River and exclude part of the territory lying on the left bank of the river which, according to the charter should be in Maryland. A more important discrepancy has also been shown, namely, that the Fairfax Stone does not represent the head of the North Branch of the Potomac, which really rises on the slopes of Backbone Mountain at a higher point and a mile or more to the westward of the present line. In 1897 as a preliminary to the final adjudication of this dispute by the United States Supreme Court lines were run northward from the Fairfax Stone and the "Potomac Stone" placed at the true head on Backbone Mountain. These lines were both true north lines, one practically coincident with the Michler line, the other approximately parallel to it but a mile and an eighth to the westward. These lines converge slightly to the north on account of the curvature of the earth, the distance between the two being about 42 feet less on the Mason and Dixon line than at their southern ends. Should the final decision be favorable to the Maryland contention the land between the two lines would be added to Garrett County.

The northern boundary of the county is formed by part of the famous Mason and Dixon line surveyed prior to the Revolutionary War. Messrs. Mason and Dixon were not able at the time to mark this line with permanent stone monuments and there have been occasional discussions as to the exact location of the line. The recent resurvey of the entire boundary between Maryland and Pennsylvania under the direction of commissioners representing these two States involved the accurate marking of the line with stone monuments placed a mile apart.

The southern boundary of the county lies on the right bank of the North Branch of the Potomac, whose waters are accordingly within the limits of Garrett County.

GARRETT COUNTY ELECTION DISTRICTS.

Prior to 1872 included in Allegany County.

See also under Allegany County 1798 Ch. 115; 1799 Ch. 48, 50; 1805 Ch. 97; 1814 Ch. 34; 1817 Ch. 15; 1821 Ch. 133; 1835 Ch. 44; 1836 Ch. 2, 44; 1837 Ch. 183; 1841 Ch. 82; 1848 Ch. 396; 1849 Ch. 4, 282, 394, 463; 1852 Ch. 218; 1853 Ch. 289; 1856 Ch. 156, 221; 1860 Ch. 167, 310; 1862 Ch. 4; 1872 Ch. 79.

1872 Ch. 212. Separates Garrett County with the following boundary:

"All that part of Allegany county lying south and west of a line beginning at the summit of Big Back Bone or Savage Mountain where that mountain is crossed by Mason's and Dixon's line, and running thence by a straight line to the middle of Savage River where it empties into the Potomac River; thence by a straight line to the nearest point or boundary of the State of West Virginia; then with the said boundary to the Fairfax Stone shall be a new county to be called the county of Garrett."

1874 Ch. 307. Creating Garrett County as a part of the sixth Congressional district which shall be composed of Allegany County, Garrett County, Washington County, Frederick County, and Montgomery County.

1874 Ch. 369. An act to redistrict and renumber the election districts in Garrett County.

Sec. 1. That the election district heretofore known as district No. 1 in Allegany, shall be designated and known as election district No. 1 in Garrett County.

Sec. 2. That the election district heretofore known as district No. 2 in Allegany County shall be designated and known as election district No. 2 in Garrett County.

Sec. 3. That the election district heretofore known as district No. 3 in Allegany County shall be designated and known as election district No. 3 in Garrett County.

Sec. 4. That those portions of election district designated as districts 4 and 16 in Allegany County now embraced within the lines of Garrett County shall constitute a new election district which shall be designated and known as election district No. 4.

1876 Ch. 7. Changes line between 2d and 5th election districts to run as follows:

"Beginning at or near the summit of Winding Ridge, where said ridge is crossed by Mason's and Dixon's Line, then running with the summit of said ridge to Bear Creek, there intersecting or joining the present dividing line of said election districts, two and five, thence with the present dividing line as now located.

- 1876 Ch. 51. Changes the dividing line between the 3d and 5th election district to run as follows:

"Beginning at the Morgantown road where said road intersects the National Road, then running a south-east course to a point on the road known as the Samuel Engle Mill road, where said road crosses the top of Negro Mountain, and intersecting the present dividing line between election districts three and five, thence with the present dividing line as located."

- 1880 Ch. 309. Changes portion of line between 3d and 5th election districts to run as follows:

"Beginning at the top of Negro Mountain where the road known as the Samuel Engle Mill road crosses said mountain, and running thence with the said road to the Westerman bridge, over the Cashman river, thence with the said river to the point where it intersects the dividing line between districts number three and number one."

- 1882 Ch. 89. Changes a portion of the line between the 5th and 6th election districts to run as follows:

"Beginning at the head of the north fork of Casselmans river, in a straight line, to Lynns Sugar Camp, and from thence to the top of Negro mountain, intersecting the Grantsville and Oakland road, and from thence to present district line, near the west place."

- 1882 Ch. 143. Erects two new election districts, Nos. 10 and 11, out of the 1st, 7th, and 8th election districts and changes the line between the 3d and 4th. The bounds are as follows:

"Beginning at the burnt school house on Hooppole Ridge, in district number seven, and running with Broad Foard Run as it now does to its mouth, intersecting with the Ryans Glade road, thence with said Ryans Glade road to the M. E. Church in Ryans Glade, in district number eight, from thence along the Altamont road to John Davis' saw mill, on a stream known as Laurel Run, and with said run to the North Branch of the Potomac River, thence with said North Branch to Kitzmillersville, and from thence with what is known as Hamill's line to the beginning . . . shall be known and designated as district number ten."

"That the present dividing line between the third and fourth election districts of Garrett county be changed so as to run as follows: Beginning at the foot of Savage Mountain where the two county roads intersect, and running down said mountain to the head waters of Mill Run, then with said run to the dividing line between Allegany and Garrett counties, thence with said dividing line to district number nine, thence with said line to or near John Wilhelm's at Little Savage, thence changing the dividing

lines of numbers three and four to run as follows: Beginning at the bridge across Little Savage near John Wilhelm's and running with Barton and Lonaconing road and running with said road to Mrs. Hanson Brown's, on Pea Ridge, thence with said road down and cross Pea Ridge to Henry Broadwater's Jr., at the head of Harton Hollow, from thence across to William W. Broadwater's, thence across to the head waters of Bear Pen Run, thence with said run to Savage River, thence with said river to the old ford, from thence across said river running with the public road to the place of beginning . . . shall be known as district number eleven."

- 1884 Ch. 325. Changes a portion of the line between the 1st and 10th election districts to run as follows:

"Beginning as originally at Kitzmillersville on the north branch of the Potomac river, and running thence with the county road and lines now located to Wilson's store on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad; thence leaving original line and running with and following the old road to the "Ingman Farm," then with road past little England school house to Deep creek bridge, there intersecting the original dividing line."

"That said part of said first election district hereby made a part of said tenth election district, shall be included in and constitute a part of the tenth election district."

- 1886 Ch. 208. Additional election district, No. 12, established from the 1st and 10th election districts with the following bounds:

"Beginning at North Branch of Potomac river, at the mouth of Lost Land run, running north with said run to the top of Back Bone mountain; thence with said mountain east to Bloomington road; thence with said road east to Folly run; thence along said run south to its mouth at beginning." Repealed by Acts of 1888 Ch. 4.

- 1886 Ch. 329. Changes a portion of the line between 5th and 6th election districts.

- 1888 Ch. 4. Repeals Acts of 1886 Ch. 208.

- 1890 Ch. 537. Additional election district, No. 12 or Bittinger, erected with the following bounds:

"Beginning at the ridge road where it intersects the meadow mountain road at Mary Otto's; then with ridge road by way of Yommer's mill to the Grantsville road at Benedict Beachey's; then to the top of Negro mountain by Rushe's mill, and John Spikers former place; then with the top of said mountain to the county road leading from John Harman's to the town of Accident; then with said road to upper end of John Harman's farm; then to the forks of the Oakland and Swanton road on the east side

of the mountain by way of Jeremiah Durst's; then to head of north branch of middle fork at Buck Mason's; then with said north fork to the mouth of Black Hawk, at Stemple's mill seat; then to mouth of Monroe's run by way of Ohaver's mill; then to James Resh's in back woods; then to Horse pond run by way of Ashford Warnick's then with said run to the place of beginning at Mary Otto's."

- 1892 Ch. 336. Changes a portion of the line between the 3d and 12th election district to run as follows:

"Beginning at the residence of James Madison Durst, then running in a straight line to the top of Meadow Mountain, then with said mountain to James Ross' residence, then by direct line to Charles O. Warnick's residence, thence by way of Jacob Hoovers to county road near Benedict Beachy's farm."

- 1894 Ch. 600. 1st and 10th election districts divided so as to make two voting precincts in the first election district and one voting precinct in the tenth district.

- 1896 Ch. 394. Divides the 7th election district into two precincts as follows:

"The first precinct shall be the territory within the following outlines to wit: All that part of said election district number seven as now laid out and established, east of the Hooppole road and on the east side of Third street, in the town of Oakland and the Aurora road. The second precinct shall be the territory of said district, as now laid out and established, on the west side of Third street, in the town of Oakland and the Aurora road."

- 1898 Ch. 4. Additional election district No. 14 erected from the 7th election district with the following bounds:

"all that part of district number seven as now laid out and established, lying east of the Hooppole road; Third street in the town of Oakland and Aurora road shall be known and designated as district number seven; and all that part lying west of Hooppole road; Third street in the town of Oakland and the Aurora road, shall be known and designated as district number fourteen."

- 1898 Ch. 36. Additional election district, No. 13, erected from portions of the 10th and 1st election district with the following bounds:

"Beginning at the mouth of Lost Land Run, and running with the northeast branch of said run to the Oakland and Bloomington road on the top of Backbone Mountain; thence, with said road along the top of said mountain, east, to what is known as the "Backbone Farm," above Swanton; thence, following the Mount Zion road, south, to the mouth of "Three Fork Run," at Chaffee; thence, with the Potomac River to the beginning."

- 1898 Ch. 304. Provides for running of a definite boundary line between Garrett and Allegany counties.
- 1900 Ch. 35. Changes line of 13th election district to run as follows:
"Beginning for the same at the mouth of Three Forks Run at Chaffee, where it empties into the Potomac River, and running thence with said run in a westerly direction up the south prong of said run, where the Mud Bridge crosses said branch on the Wilson and Kitzmiller County Road, and thence with said road to the top of Back Bone Mountain to intersect the second line of said district, as designated and set forth under the Act of eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, Chapter thirty-six, and thence with the lines, as set forth in the aforesaid Act of Assembly to the place of beginning."
- 1906 Ch. 730. An Act to provide for the definite and final establishment of the boundary line between Allegany and Garrett Counties, in order to bring under the assessment law certain un-taxed lands in said counties.

HARFORD COUNTY.

The history of Harford County, so far as the boundaries are concerned, has been a very simple matter, few counties in the State having had as little change in their territorial limits. This is doubtless due to the fact of its situation, which permits the use of geographic features of well defined character for the boundaries. Settlements of a temporary or permanent character in what is now Harford County probably date back to the days of William Claiborne and his partners when they erected a trading post with the Indians on the island opposite Havre de Grace in 1627-29. One of the earliest permanent settlements was that of Col. Utie on Spesutie Island, which was made about the time of the treaty with the Susquehanna Indians, concluded in the year 1652. Soon after a small but thriving settlement sprung up on the Bush River. It was here that the original Baltimore town, which became for a time the county seat of Baltimore County, was situated though nothing but a few remnants of masonry mark its former site. The occupation of the shores along the estuaries of the Gunpowder and Bush rivers as well as the banks of the Chesapeake, took place rapidly and land was patented up Winter's and Bynum runs prior to 1700. By 1750 the southern part of the county was in private hands. When the county was established in

1773 the lands had been patented to the Pennsylvania line, although most of the settlements were still along the necks of the tidewater areas or extending along the streams and routes of travel across the Piedmont. Of the latter at this time there was the main road passing from Baltimore through Joppa to Elkton and branch roads from Abingdon to Stafford, Conowingo and Pennsylvania. There were numerous other routes of less importance branching off from the post road, such as that leading to Jarrettsville and Belair. About this time an east and west road through the northern part of the county was established.

According to the Acts of Assembly erecting Harford County it was ordered

That after the second day of March next all that part of Baltimore county which is included within the bounds following, to wit: Beginning at the mouth of the little falls of the Gunpowder river, and running with the said falls to the fountain head, and from thence north to the temporary line of this province, and thence with the temporary line to Susquehanna river, thence with Susquehanna to Chesapeake bay, and thence with said bay, including Spesutie and Pool's islands, to the mouth of Gunpowder river to the beginning aforesaid shall be and is hereby erected into a new county, by the name of Harford county.

These are the limits of Harford County to-day with the exception of the northern boundary, which now follows the Mason and Dixon line and not the "temporary line" called for by the original Act. The use of this term in this place is of interest. The temporary line had been run as an *ex parte* line by the Pennsylvania commissioners in 1739. This line was to serve as a temporary boundary until the Penns and the Baltimores could come to a settlement regarding their controversy and have a permanent boundary marked. When Harford County was erected such a settlement had been reached and Messrs. Mason and Dixon had spent several years in this county surveying and marking the permanent line as it stands to-day. Their work was completed and they had returned to Europe five years prior to the erection of Harford County. It would, therefore, seem that the legislators had overlooked this fact for they could not have been ignorant of it after all the controversy, bitter feelings, and large amount of actual work involved in the establishment of the Mason and Dixon line. The fact that the tem-

porary line was only a short distance north of the Mason and Dixon line as finally established may have led to the inadvertent use of the term which had been a familiar, popular phrase to indicate the State boundary for more than a generation.

HARFORD COUNTY ELECTION DISTRICTS.

- 1798 Ch. 115. County divided into 5 election districts.
- 1799 Ch. 48. Confirms Acts of 1798 Ch. 115.
- 1799 Ch. 50. Commission appointed to divide county into 5 election districts.
- 1816 Ch. 36. Polling place of 1st election district changed to Abingdon.
- 1821 Ch. 214. Polling place of the 2d election district changed to Hall's Cross Road.
- 1822 Ch. 51. Polling place of the 4th election district changed to Samuel Marshall's new house.
- 1826 Ch. 41. Line between Hall's Cross Roads and Belle Air districts changed.
 "Beginning at the point where the new road from Rock Run Bridge intersects the original line, thence running with the said new road to Quarry Run, thence down said run until it again intersects the original district line at Coxe's mill, and from thence with the original line to the place of beginning" . . . annexed to Belle Air district.
- 1830 Ch. 26. Lines changed between the 2d, 3d, and 5th election districts so that
 "that part of Harford County which lies between Deer Creek and the road that leads on the southern side of said creek, from William Willson's mill-dam by Joshua Husband's tan-yard to Priestford Bridge shall henceforth cease to be included in the second and third election districts, and the same is hereby declared to be included in and made part of the fifth election district in said county."
- 1842 Ch. 139. Erects Havre de Grace (defined by 1839 Ch. 267 and 1840 Ch. 64) as a new or 6th election district.
- 1876 Ch. 154. Calls for division into election precincts, as required.
- 1884 Ch. 20. Divides 1st election district into two election precincts.
 "That the county commissioners of Harford county be and they are hereby authorized and directed to divide and lay out the first election district of Harford county, commonly called Abingdon district, into two election precincts, in such manner as in their judgement the public may require"
- 1898 Ch. 201. Authorizes supervisors to divide election districts into election precincts.
- 1906 Ch. 547. Redefines Baltimore-Harford County line. See Baltimore County.

HOWARD COUNTY.

The existence of Howard County as a distinct political unit dates from the Convention of 1850 although its outline is defined by the Acts of 1838, Chapter 22, which separated Howard District as a distinct part of Anne Arundel County. According to this Act the boundaries were to be as follows:

"Beginning . . . at the intersection of the west shore of Deep Run with the southern shore of the Patapsco River, at or near Ellicott's furnace, and running southerly with said Deep Run, until it reaches the Baltimore and Washington Rail Road [now the Washington Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad]; and thence with the said rail road and including the same until it reaches the southwestern line of Anne Arundel county on the big Patuxent River" and thence with the said river, and the lines of said county until it intersects the northwestern point of said county, and running thence with the lines of Carroll and Baltimore counties to the place of beginning.

The territory now included within Howard County was a part of Baltimore County from 1659 to 1726. During the interval between the erection of Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties the territory was under the jurisdiction of the former. Subsequent to 1838 the relations with Anne Arundel County were rather loose. The progress of settlement of the region was upward along the valleys of the Patapsco and Patuxent rivers and more slowly upon the divides between, the frontier line being a crescent-like curve which moved slowly to the northwest from the original settlement along the Bay. During the interval from 1659 to some time later than 1727 the inhabitants along the valley of the Patapsco and above Warfield's Ridge, the beginning of the Piedmont, were residents of Baltimore County even though their homes and lands were subsequently in Anne Arundel. By an Act passed July 25, 1726, the land lying on the south side of the Patapsco River was taken from Baltimore County according to the following bounds:

"From the Head thereof, and from thence, bounding on the *south* side of the main Falls, being the Southernmost great Branch of the said River, and running as the said Branch runs, to the first main Fork of the said Falls."

The relative geographic positions of the heads of the Patapsco and Patuxent [Snowden] rivers are such that no line run due north from the head of the latter would intersect the former. The contemporaneous opinion in 1726 believed this to be possible, the idea obtaining that the

Patuxent had a more southerly course above Laurel than it has. It was clearly intended by the law that the major part of what is now Howard County should have been retained in Baltimore County. This instance is a good illustration of the way in which boundaries changed with increasing knowledge without any change in law. As information accumulated regarding the little known wooded courses of the Patuxent and Patapsco it became evident that each river headed farther north and west than had been supposed and that the "north line" must be moved farther and farther west to intersect the head of Snowden River. This movement westward continued until all of the territory between the two rivers was included in Anne Arundel County where it remained until the action of the Constitutional Convention of 1850 made Howard District, as defined in 1838, Howard County. According to the law of 1726 the jurisdiction and control of the Patapsco River is with Baltimore and Carroll counties since the south side of the river is definitely specified as the boundary.

Since the erection of Howard County only two counties, Wicomico and Garrett, have been erected within the State and each of these is separated at considerable distance from Howard County so that the latter has received no modification of its territory since the time of its erection.

HOWARD COUNTY ELECTION DISTRICTS.

- Included in Anne Arundel County until 1850. See 1820 Ch. 168, 1822 Ch. 116, 1834 Ch. 186.
- 1838 Ch. 22. Howard District laid off as a municipal district from Anne Arundel County.
- 1841 Ch. 13. Polling place of 7th election district established at Cooksville.
- 1843 Ch. 195. Commissioners appointed to lay off county into five election districts.
- 1844 Ch. 69. Polling place for 3rd election district at Israel McKenzie's house. Divisional line between the said third and fourth election districts of said Howard District be and the same is hereby established as follows, to wit: From the entrance of General Hood's lane on the Frederick turnpike road, with and bounding on the road leading to Hobb's mill to the south termination of the lane between Perry G. Hobb's and Robert Hobbs, thence with a straight line to William Wesley Scrivnor's house, leaving him in the fourth district, and thence with a straight line to John Elder's, leaving him in the third district.

1860 Ch. 15. Changing and defining bounds of election district No. 1:

"Beginning at a point where the old Annapolis road crosses the Columbia turnpike road, and following the said old Annapolis road until it reaches a point at or near George Atocket's house; then by a road leading from the said old Annapolis road through the lands of William J. Timanus and Ashbury Fisher, until it intersects the county road from Hillen to Elk Ridge Landing, and then following the lines of said election district as now established, to the place of beginning."

1868 Ch. 388. Sixth election district erected.

"Beginning at a line at Jessop's Cut, on the Washington Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and running from thence, and binding on the old Annapolis and Elk Ridge road, which passes by the present election house of the first Election District aforesaid, until it intersects the Columbia Turnpike, thence running with and bounding on the said Columbia Turnpike until it intersects the division line between Montgomery and Howard Counties at the Patuxent river, thence bounding on said river until it intersects the Washington Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and thence bounding on said road to Jessop's Cut at place of beginning."

KENT COUNTY.

Prior to the settlement of St. Mary's City by the Maryland colonists but subsequent to the granting of "Crescentia" to Lord Baltimore, Charles I granted (May 16, 1631) a license under the Privy seal of Scotland which permitted William Clayborne to trade along the shores of the Chesapeake. To obtain the advantages arising from this license the latter, who had explored the Chesapeake in previous years, established a trading post on Kent Island in 1631. When the Marylanders settled in 1634 on the Potomac they claimed authority over Kent Island and its little trading settlement, and the contest for possession and control led to numerous conflicts between the State authorities and the followers of William Clayborne even after the report and order of the Committee of Trade and Plantations, which on the 4th of April, 1638, decided in favor of Lord Baltimore's rights. To show the authority of Lord Baltimore over this territory a commission was issued to John Langford as a sheriff for the Isle of Kent on the 9th of February.

1637-8 (Md. Arch., 1:361; 3:62). The establishment of the shrievalty usually implies the existence of a county and this date has been adopted as the date of erection of Kent County. There is, however, among the Maryland archives (Md. Arch., 1:55) a copy of a law which was introduced in the Assembly on the 25th of the same month and subsequently engrossed on March 8, succeeding, which calls for the erection of the Isle of Kent into a hundred of St. Mary's County. The text of the law which, however, was never passed (Md. Arch., 1:39) runs as follows:

"Be it Enacted By the Lord Proprietary of this Province of and with the advice and approbation of the same that the Island commonly called the Isle of Kent shall be erected into a hundred & shall be within the County of St. Maries (untill another County shall be erected of the Eastern shoare and no longer) and shall be called by the name of Kent hundred. . . ."

It is interesting to note from these records the indefiniteness of the county idea as held in Maryland at this time. Two years later, in October, 1640, the summons to the Assembly does not refer to the Isle of Kent as a hundred but the summons is addressed to its Commander (Md. Arch., 1:87). In the commission appointing Richard Thompson and William Luddington commissioners on the 2d of August, 1642 (Md. Arch., 3:105), the territory is spoken of as the "Isle and County of Kent." This is apparently the first definite calling of Kent County as such. At this date, also, a county court was established.

From its earliest recognition Kent County appears to have been analogous to St. Mary's County, the one representing the settlements on the Eastern Shore, the other on the Western. No changes were made upon the Western Shore until the erection of Anne Arundel County in 1650 and none on the Eastern Shore until the erection of Baltimore County in 1659. In neither instance were territorial limits assigned to the counties until the subsequent establishment of contiguous jurisdictions.

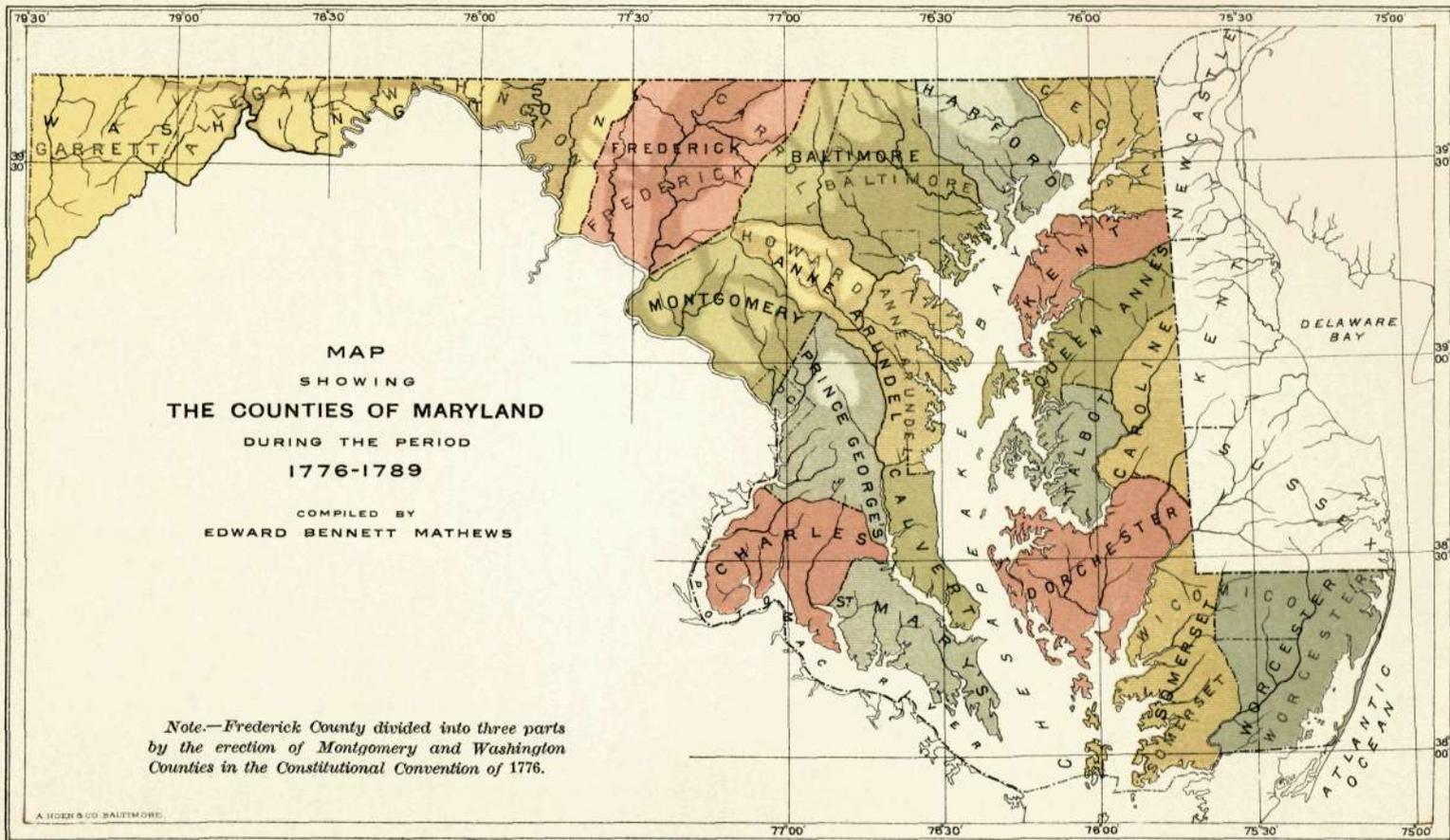
Prior to the establishment of Baltimore County in 1659 and Talbot County in 1662, the scattered inhabitants along the Eastern Shore of the Bay apparently transacted their business either at Kent Island or at St. Mary's City. With the erection of these new counties the jurisdiction of Kent appears to have been limited to that part of the Eastern Shore about Eastern Bay, while Talbot County exercised jurisdiction

MAP
 SHOWING
THE COUNTIES OF MARYLAND
 DURING THE PERIOD
1776-1789

COMPILED BY
EDWARD BENNETT MATHEWS

*Note.—Frederick County divided into three parts
 by the erection of Montgomery and Washington
 Counties in the Constitutional Convention of 1776.*

A. HIGGINS & CO. BALTIMORE.



over the growing settlements about the mouth of the Choptank. No exact limits separating these two counties can be given as the order or Act by which Talbot was erected has not been found, the earliest reference to the same being the temporary appointment of Mr. Moyses Stagwell as sheriff of Talbot County February 18, 1661-2, upon which date there were also appointed county commissioners (Md. Arch., 1:425; 3:448). The only exception to this generalization that Eastern Bay was the dividing line appears to be with regard to Poplar Island, which was joined to Kent County according to the following enactment passed the 24th September, 1657 (Md. Arch., 1:361):

"It is Enacted and declared in the Name of his highness the Lord protector of England &c and by the Authority of this present Generall Assembly That the Island commonly called Poppers Island Lying near unto the Island of Kent be adjoynd unto the County of Kent, and from hence forth be of all persons so accounted, and taken to be"

Subsequently by proclamation,* dated June 21, 1671, "the northeast side of Chester as far as the bounds of Talbot county were formerly on that side" was added to Kent county. The first sharp statements of the boundary line between Talbot and Kent, occur in the Act passed May 22, 1695, which enacted

"That from and after the Twenty third day of April next [1696] after the end of this present Sessions of Assembly the Island of Kent shall be added to and made part of Talbott County and Deemed reputed and Taken as part thereof And That that part of Talbott County lying on the North side of Corsecia Creek running up the main Eastern Branch to the head thereof and then with a Course drawn East to the out side of this Province shall be the Southerly Bounds of the County of Kent and on the North by the County of Cecil any Law Statute or usage heretofore to the Contrary notwithstanding."

By this Act Kent Island, which had given the name to the county, was removed from its jurisdiction and the name Kent became limited to the territory which had subsequently been settled.

The northern boundary of Kent County was first determined by proclamation of Charles Calvert on the 6th of June, 1674, when it was decreed

"that from the mouth of the Susquehanough River and so downe the easterne side of Chesepeake Bay to Swan point and from thence to Hell point and so up Chester River to the head thereof"

* Kent County Land Rec., Lib. A, No. 1, p. 54.

should become Cecil County. On the 19th of the month a second proclamation was issued reciting the fact that upon further consideration it was thought best

“that so much of the Eastern side as was formerly added to Kent County doe still remaine and belong to the said county as afore.”

This applies to the territory along the Bay shore chiefly south of Swan Point in the vicinity of Chester River, which had become settled ten or fifteen years earlier. There are no records to show just where the dividing line between Kent and Cecil counties was put at this time but the map of Augustine Herrman, supposed to have been finished in 1670 and copyrighted January 21, 1674-5, carries the name Cecil to a point near Church Hill. It would thus appear that the original intention had been to establish the lines given in the first proclamation. The settlements represented here are for the most part clustered about Swan Point and north on the Sassafras River, suggesting that the temporary line passed indefinitely northwesterly from the neighborhood of Chestertown to the mouth of the Sassafras. No records have been found indicating when the transfer referred to in the second proclamation had been made to Kent County. By 1706 the settlements had increased on the Eastern Shore and a general Act was passed April 19, 1706,

“dividing and regulating several counties on the eastern shore” (1706 Ch. 3).

According to this Act after the first of May, 1707, the boundaries of Kent County were to

“begin at the south point of Eastern neck, and from thence run up Chesapeake bay to Sassafras river, and up said river to the south end of long Horse bridge lying over the head of the said river, and from thence with a line drawn east and by south, to the exterior bounds of this province, and with the exterior bounds of this province until it intersect the line of Queen Anne's County, and with the said county down Chester river to Eastern neck, where it first begun,”

Although this boundary was defined prior to the settlement of the Delaware-Maryland boundary line, it very closely describes the boundaries of the present Kent County. At the time it was enacted the Proprietor and people of Maryland were actively resisting the claims of William

Penn and his followers to the Delaware watershed. The "Lower Counties" had, however, but recently separated themselves into a distinct political unit and were by no means inclined to allow Kent County to exercise authority over the disputed territory. The limits of the jurisdiction of Kent County were thus in reality not very different from those of to-day.

The eastern boundary was defined by the decree of the Lord High Chancellor of England in 1750 when he settled the limits between Maryland and the Delaware counties of Pennsylvania. This line was finally run and marked by Mason and Dixon about fifteen years later. It was described as a line drawn from the Middle Point of the Eastern Shore tangent to a circle of twelve miles radius drawn about New Castle, Delaware.

KENT COUNTY ELECTION DISTRICTS.

- 1798 Ch. 115. County divided into 3 election districts.
 1799 Ch. 48. Confirms Acts of 1798 Ch. 115.
 1799 Ch. 50. Commission appointed to divide county into 3 election districts.
 1813 Ch. 157. Polling place of the 1st election district to be at a place selected by the judges.
 1860 Ch. 21. Commissioners appointed to divide Kent County into 4 or 5 election districts as seems best.
 1878 Ch. 220. Polling place of the 3d election district changed from "Worten Heights" or "Hanesville" to Smithville.
 1884 Ch. 452. Establishes voting precincts in the 4th election district as follows:

"Beginning at the mouth of Radcliffe creek, and running thence with said creek and the run or stream from the mill-pond of the Chestertown Straw Board Company, to where the said run or stream intersects the centre of the public road leading from Chestertown to Fairlee, at or near the said mills; thence by and with the aforesaid public road to Harrisburg to Fannell's branch, to school-house number four, to where the said road intersects the stream or run, which constitutes a part of the division line between the fourth and fifth election districts, and all that part of said Chestertown district number four, lying north and east of said division line as above indicated shall be known as "Precinct Number One" . . . and all that part of the Chestertown district number four lying south and west of the aforesaid division line, shall be known as "Precinct Number Two."

1896 Ch. 289. Divides Kent County into 7 election districts bounded as follows:

"The first election district shall begin at the point on the boundary line between the States of Maryland and Delaware, where Kent county joins Queen Anne's county; and running thence by and with said State line northwardly to the line of Cecil county, then westerly with the division line between Cecil and Kent and with Sassafras river to Mill creek, then up mill creek to the head thereof and southerly to the public road leading from Lambson's to Chesterville, then with said public road through Chesterville and to Chester river at Crumpton, then up Chester river and with the division line between Kent and Queen Anne's counties to the beginning. The first election district is divided into two voting precincts, to be known as the Millington precinct, comprising all that part of the said first district which lies south of the Baltimore and Delaware Bay Railroad, with the voting place at Millington, and the Galena precinct, comprising all that part of the said district which lies north of the said Baltimore and Delaware Bay Railroad, with the voting place at Galena.

The second election district shall begin at Mill creek on Sassafras river, and running down Sassafras river to the public road at Betterton then with the said public road from Betterton to the intersection of said road with the public road from Coleman's to Lynch's, then with that public road to Lynch's and thence with the public road to Riley's mill on Morgan creek, then with Morgan creek to Chester river, then up Chester river to the public road at Crumpton, then with said public road to Chesterville and with the public road towards Lambson to the line of the first district, then with that line northerly to Mill creek, and with Mill creek to the beginning on Sassafras river, with the voting place at Kennedyville.

The third election district shall be as follows: Beginning at the public road at Betterton, on Sassafras river, and running down Sassafras river and down Chesapeake bay to the mouth of Worton creek; then up Worton creek to the public road at Buck Neck Landing; then with said public road to Militoto and with the public road towards Chestertown, until it intersects the public road from Eliason's to the Watson farm; then with that public road and the public road to Goose Hill to the mill stream; then with said mill stream to the public road at Riley's mill; then with the public road to and through Lynch's and with the public road through the Norris lands towards Barnard's wharf, as far as the public road near the mill at the head

of Still Pond creek; then with that public road towards Still Pond and to the Chesapeake bay at Betterton, the beginning point, with the voting place at Worton.

The fourth election district shall begin in Chester river, and running up, by and with said creek to the public road at Goose Hill; then with said public road to the road leading to Worton Station; then with that road and the public road leading from Watson's to Eliason's and the public road towards Hanesville, and the public road from Eliason's to the public road from Fairlee to Chestertown; then with that public road towards Chestertown to the stream near the straw "Board Mill," then with said stream and Radcliff creek and Chester river to the beginning, with the voting place at Chestertown.

The fifth election district shall begin at the public road near Price's mill, the headwaters of Lankford bay, and running with said public road to Rees' corner and to Swan Creek bridge, and westerly to the Chesapeake bay, and down by and with said bay and with Chester river and the west fork of Lankford bay to the beginning, with the voting place at Rock Hall.

The sixth election district shall begin at Buck Neck Landing on Worton creek, and running with the public road towards Hanesville to Militoto; thence with the public road to the road from Fairlee to Chestertown; then with the public road leading from Aldridge gate to Lankford; then with the public road to Lankford; and with the public road from Lankford to Price's Mills; and to Rees' Corner and to Swan Creek bridge; and thence westerly to Chesapeake bay; and up and with said bay to Worton Creek; and up Worton Creek to the beginning, with the voting place at Fairlee.

The seventh election district shall begin at the mouth of Radcliff creek on Chester river, and run up said creek and stream to the public road from Chestertown to Fairlee; then with that public road to the public road from Aldridge gate to Lankford; then with that public road and the public road from Lankford to Price's Mill to the headwaters of the West York of Lankford bay, then down and with said bay and up Chester river to the beginning with the voting place at Pomona."

MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

Montgomery County has maintained with almost no variation the boundaries assigned to it at the time of its erection by the Constitutional Convention in 1776. Prior to that time its territory constituted the southeastern portion of Frederick County and had been settled to a greater or less extent along the valleys of the Potomac and Patuxent rivers and in the fertile upland in the vicinity of Sandy Spring. Nearly a century before its erection as a distinct county, settlements had been made in the vicinity of Georgetown along Rock Creek, and somewhat later in the neighborhood of Spencerville and along Sligo Creek.

According to the acts of the Convention of 1776 on the sixth of September of that year it was decided that

Beginning at the east side of the mouth of Rock creek on Potomac river, and running with the said river to the mouth of Monocacy, then with a straight line to Par's Spring, from thence with the lines of the county to the beginning, shall be and is hereby erected into a new county by the name of Montgomery county.

The present lines were inherited, for the most part, from the earlier lines of Frederick County. It is, perhaps, of interest to recall in this connection the origin of some of the points along the present boundary and how they were originally chosen. Parrs Spring, as the head of the Patuxent River, had for many years been one of the prominent points in defining county boundaries. As early as 1654, when Calvert County was erected from a pre-existent Charles County the boundary line was said to extend to the head of Patuxent River, which was then the northerly bound of St. Mary's County. At that time the head of Patuxent River, however, was not known to be at Parrs Spring but was thought to exist in the vicinity of Laurel. The term was employed later in 1698 in defining the boundary line between Baltimore and Anne Arundel counties, although it is doubtful whether the legislators intended to have the line go north of Laurel. By 1748, when Frederick County was erected, it is probable that the source of the Patuxent was approximately, if not exactly, known. It was at this time also that the line now forming the southeastern boundary of Montgomery County was determined. This is the northern end of a straight line passing from the lower side of

the mouth of Rock Creek to the east side of Seth Hyatt's plantation and thence to Patuxent River. The southern end of the line from Takoma to the mouth was set aside by the erection of the District of Columbia in 1791, when this portion of the county was ceded to the Federal Government. One line which may be regarded as individual to the history of Montgomery County, that established at its erection, has remained unchanged to the present day.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ELECTION DISTRICTS.

- 1798 Ch. 115. County divided into 5 election districts.
 1799 Ch. 48. Confirms Acts of 1798 Ch. 115.
 1799 Ch. 50. Commission appointed to divide county into 5 election districts.
 1805 Ch. 83. Changes polling place of 4th election district to Coalsville.
 1805 Ch. 97. Confirms Acts of 1805 Ch. 83.
 1809 Ch. 110. Polling place of 1st election district to be selected by Commission.
 1821 Ch. 223. Commission appointed to lay off the 5th election district and to select election places.
 1833 Ch. 217. Changes line between 1st and 5th election districts to run as follows:
 "Beginning at the mouth of Hawling's river, and running up the same to the mouth of Stoney Branch, thence up the southermost fork of said branch to the source thereof, near Centreville, and on a farm now belonging to William Birdsall, then with a straight line to the mouth of Beale's Branch, and then with a straight line to the ford of Rock creek, called and known by the name of Rickett's Ford."
 1843 Ch. 27. Polling place of 4th election district to be at the Court House.
 1868 Ch. 466. Commission appointed to run and mark the Prince George's County line.
 1870 Ch. 471. Relates to the running of the Prince George's County line.
 1872 Ch. 226. Authorizes additional payments on Prince George's county line.
 1876 Ch. 143. Authorizes a referendum on dividing the county into 12 election districts with polling places defined by this Act. [Apparently not carried.]
 1878 Ch. 22. Additional election district, No. 6, created with the following bounds:
 "Beginning at the crossing of Little Seneca creek by the County road leading from Gaithersburg to Barnesville, and running down and with said Little Seneca creek until it empties into Great Seneca creek, then down and with said Great Seneca creek until it empties into the Potomac river,

then down and with said Potomac river to the mouth of Watt's branch, then up and with said Watt's branch to the mouth of Piney branch, then up and with said Piney branch until the same is crossed by the Public road in the direction of Darnestown, until the same intersects the road known as the Du Tirt Mill road, then with and up said road as it is described in the plat recorded in Liber J. G. H., number seven, folio six hundred and three of the Land records of said Montgomery county, until the same intersects the Gaithersburg and Barnesville road in the direction of Barnesville to the place of beginning, to include Harris and Watkins islands in the Potomac river."

- 1878 Ch. 87. Additional election district, No. 7, created with the following bounds:

"Beginning on the Potomac river at the point where the dividing line between Montgomery county and the District of Columbia crosses, the same then running with said dividing line in a northeasterly direction until the same crosses near the residence of Hon. Montgomery Blair, then with said dividing line in a southeasterly direction until the same is crossed by the turnpike leading from Brookville to Washington city, then with said turnpike in a northerly direction until the same is crossed by the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, then with said railroad in a westerly direction until the same crosses the county road east of Rock creek and near Newport mills, then with said county road until it intersects the turnpike leading from Rockville to Georgetown, then with a straight line to the intersection of the Orendoff mill road with the old Georgetown road, near the residence of Isaac O. Rabbitt, then with said Orendoff mill road until the same is crossed by Thomas' run, then down and with said Thomas' run until the same empties into Cabin John creek, then down and with said Cabin John creek until the same empties into the Potomac river, then down and with the Potomac river to the place of beginning."

- 1878 Ch. 117. Additional election district, No. 8, created from portions of the 1st and 5th election districts.

"Beginning at Brown's bridge on the Patuxent river, and following the county road known as the limekiln road to its crossing of Ashton and Coalsville turnpike, then with the continuation of said limekiln road to Holland's Corner, then with the Norwood branch of the Union turnpike to the crossing at Holland's branch, then continuing with said limekiln road to Brookville and Washington turnpike, then with said pike to the Baltimore and Rockville road, thence with said Baltimore and Rockville road to the bridge crossing Rock creek, then following up and

with the eastern branch of Rock creek to the bridge crossing said creek at William E. Muncastee's mill, then with the county road leading to the village of Redland to where the said road crosses the western branch of Rock creek, at what was formerly known as Rickett's ford, then following up and with said western branch of Rock Creek to where it crosses the road leading from Rockville to Unity, near the farm of Walter M. Talbot, then following said road to its intersection with the road leading from Mechanicsville to Laytonville, near the residence of Fletcher R. Veitch, then following the road leading from Laytonville to Brookville to the crossing of the public road near the Catholic church and the village of Mount Zion, then with said public road to Hawling's river, near the residence of Thomas D. Gaither, then down and with Hawling's river to the Westminster road, near Allen Bowie Davis' mill, then with the said Westminster road to the intersection of the road leading to Triadelphia, north of the store of Frederick O. Gaither, then with said road to the bridge across the Patuxent river at the village of Triadelphia, then down and with said Patuxent river to Brown bridge, the place of beginning."

- 1880 Ch. 228. Additional election district, No. 10, erected with the following bounds:

"Beginning at the mouth of Cabin John creek, thence up and with said Cabin John creek to the mouth of Thomas' run, thence up and with said Thomas' run until the same is crossed by the Orendorff mill road, thence with a straight line to where Piney branch is crossed by the public road near the residence of Mrs. Upton West, thence down and with said Piney branch until it empties into the Potomac river, thence down and with said Potomac river to the place of beginning."

- 1880 Ch. 301. Additional election district, No. 9, erected from portions of the 1st, 2d, 4th, and 6th election districts.

"Beginning for the same at the cross roads in the village of Germantown, and running thence with the Neelsville road to the Georgetown and Frederick road, thence across said Georgetown and Frederick road to the road leading from the Neelsville Presbyterian Church to the old Baltimore road, thence with said road to its intersection with the old Baltimore road, thence with said old Baltimore road to Seneca bridge, thence with the road leading from Seneca bridge to Rockville, via the village of Redland to where the said road is crossed by Mill branch, near the farm of William O. Householder, thence with a straight line to the intersection of the Georgetown and Frederick road, with what is known as the Gaither

road between the residences of George M. Grapp and Lemuel Clements, thence with said Gaither road to its intersection with the Rockville and Darnestown road, near the residence of Thomas W. Stonestreet, thence with said Rockville and Darnestown road, in the direction of Darnestown, to its intersection with what is known as the Quince Orchard road near the Quince Orchard school house, thence with said Quince Orchard road to its intersection with the Gaithersburg and Barnesville road, near the St. Rose's Catholic Church, thence with said Gaithersburg and Barnesville road, in the direction of Barnesville, to the place of beginning."

- 1882 Ch. 32. Changes the dividing line between the 3rd and 6th election districts to run as follows:

"Beginning at the mouth of Great Seneca creek; thence up and with said Great Seneca creek to the mouth of Dry Seneca creek; thence up and with said Dry Seneca creek to the mouth of Half-Way branch; thence up and with said Half-Way branch until the same is crossed by the line dividing the farms of Joseph Dyson and Benoni Allnut; thence with a straight line, in a southwest course, through the lands of Benoni Allnut, to the east branch of Beaver Dam creek; thence down and with said east branch of Beaver Dam creek to the Potomac river; thence down and with the said Potomac river to the place of beginning, and now embraced within the limits of (Medley's) the third election district of Montgomery county shall hereafter be a part and parcel of (Darnestown) the sixth election district of said county, and all people," etc.

- 1882 Ch. 93. Changes the dividing line between the 6th and 9th election districts to run as follows:

"Beginning on the Gaithersburg and Barnesville road, where the same is crossed by Gunners branch, thence down and with said Gunners branch to Great Seneca creek, thence down and with said Great Seneca creek to the mouth of Long Draught branch, thence up and with said branch until the same is crossed by the road leading from the Quince Orchard school house to the Gaithersburg and Barnesville road, thence with said road leading from said Quince Orchard school house to said Gaithersburg and Barnesville road to its intersection with said Gaithersburg and Barnesville road near the St. Rose's Catholic church, thence with said Gaithersburg and Barnesville road in the direction of Barnesville to the place of beginning."

- 1882 Ch. 168. Additional election district, No. 11, erected and a portion of the 3d election district added to the 2d.

"Beginning for the same where the Gaithersburg and Barnesville road is crossed by Little Seneca creek, thence

with said Gaithersburg and Barnesville road in the direction of Barnesville, and through the village of Boyds to where the said Gaithersburg and Barnesville road is intersected by the new cut road on the north side said Gaithersburg and Barnesville road, about a half mile from said village of Boyds, and at the wheelwright shop of Hiram Stottlemeyer; thence with said new cut road across the Baltimore road to where the said new cut road intersects the Barnesville and Clarksburg road at the residence of Jerome Thompson; thence with said Barnesville and Clarksburg road for about a quarter of a mile in the direction of Barnesville to where said Barnesville and Clarksburg road is intersected by the road leading therefrom to Hyattstown; thence with said road leading to Hyattstown to where the same is crossed by the branch near the residence of John W. Nicholson; thence down and with said branch to where the same is crossed by the dividing line in a westwardly direction to the Potomac river; thence down and with said Potomac river to the mouth of Little Monocacy creek; thence up and with said Little Monocacy creek until the same is crossed by the mouth of Monocacy and Dawsonville road through Beallsville, in the direction of Dawsonville, to where said mouth of Monocacy and Dawsonville road is intersected by the road leading therefrom to Boyds (known as the Richard T. White road), and near the residence of the late Dr. Nicholas Brewer; thence with said last mentioned road until the same is crossed by the spring branch north of the residence of the late Robert Dade; thence down and with said spring branch to Buck Lodge branch to Little Seneca creek; thence up and with said Little Seneca creek to the place of beginning."

1884 Ch. 104. Changes name of Mechanicsville District, No. 8, to Olney district, No. 8.

1884 Ch. 108. Changes name of Great Falls district, No. 10, to Potomac district, No. 10.

1884 Ch. 125. Additional election district, No. 12, erected with the following bounds:

"Beginning for the same at the head of Patuxent river, and running thence down and with said river to where the same is crossed by the public road at John J. Mullinix' grist and saw mill; thence with said public road in a westwardly direction until the same is intersected by the road leading from Damascus to Laytonsville, near the residence of Aden M. Bowman; thence with a straight line to the spring, the head waters of the Great Seneca creek, near the residence of Mareen Duvall; thence down and with Great Seneca creek to its confluence with Wild-Cat

branch; thence up and with Wild-Cat branch until the same is crossed by the public road leading from Washington D. Waters' grist and saw mill to Cedar Grove postoffice; thence with said last-mentioned road to Cedar Grove postoffice; thence with the road leading from Cedar Grove postoffice to Damascus until said road is crossed by the new-cut road at Fillmore N. Poole's blacksmith shop; thence with said new-cut road through the lands of William Williams and others until said new-cut road is intersected by the road leading from Clarksburg to Damascus, thence with said road leading from Clarksburg to Damascus, in the direction of Damascus, until the same is intersected by the road leading from Luther N. King's store to Luther G. King's distillery; thence with said last-mentioned road to said Luther G. King's distillery; thence with the road leading from Luther G. King's distillery to the Hyattstown and Damascus road, near John M. King's gate; thence with said Hyattstown and Damascus road in the direction of Hyattstown, until the same is intersected by the public road leading to Price's distillery, in Frederick county; thence with said last-mentioned road to the Frederick and Montgomery county line, thence with said line to the place of beginning."

- 1886 Ch. 386. Election district, No. 13, erected and changes the name of the 5th election district from Berry's election district to Colesville district No. 5.

"Beginning for the same at the county road known as the "Lime Kiln" road, where the same is crossed by the Little Northwest Branch; thence with said Lime Kiln road to its intersection with the Brookeville and Washington Turnpike; thence with said turnpike to the Baltimore and Rockville road to the bridge crossing Rock creek; thence down and with said Rock creek until the same is crossed by the District of Columbia and Montgomery county dividing line; thence with said dividing line in a northeasterly direction until the same corners near the residence of Mrs. Mary C. Blair; thence with the said dividing line in a southeasterly direction until the same is intersected by the dividing line between the counties of Prince George's and Montgomery; thence with said last mentioned dividing line until the same is crossed by the Northwest Branch; thence up and with said Northwest Branch to its confluence with the Little Northwest Branch; thence up and with the Little Northwest Branch to the place of beginning."

Name of Berry's election district changed to Colesville Number five.

- 1898 Ch. 40. Changes the name of Cracklin district, number one, to Laytonsville district, number one.

1904 Ch. 260. Changes dividing line between 2d precinct of 4th election district and the 7th election district to run as follows:

"Beginning at the intersection of the road leading from Garrett Park with the turnpike leading from Rockville to Bethesda; thence with a straight line to the intersection of the Orendorf Mill road with the Old Georgetown road, near Bean postoffice; thence with the Old Georgetown road in the direction of Bethesda, to its intersection with the road petitioned for by F. W. Bargerter and others, as per plat recorded in Plat Book No. 1, Plat No. 51, of record in the Clerk's office of the Circuit Court for Montgomery County; thence with said last mentioned road to its intersection with the turnpike in the direction of Rockville to the place of beginning, and now embraced within the Seventh Election District of Montgomery County, shall hereafter be a part and parcel of the second precinct of the Fourth Election District of said county. . . ."

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY.

The earliest settlements in Prince George's County were made upon the Patuxent side of the county in the vicinity of Mataponi Creek, from which point to Swansons Creek stretched a more or less scattered plantation close to the river banks. The earliest records show that the inhabitants along the river were regarded as living in St. Mary's County. In 1650, when old Charles County was erected, the south shore of the Patuxent was included in it and such settlements as were made within the present limits of Prince George's County were under the immediate control of Robert Brooke, Commander of old Charles County. In 1654 old Charles County was abolished and the territory on both sides of the Patuxent was erected into Calvert County. Somewhat later Calvert County was limited to the territory on the eastern side of the Patuxent and Prince George's County became part of the new Charles County which was erected in 1658. This was the condition of affairs up to the general act of 1695 when Prince George's County was erected. It was then enacted

"that the Land from the upper side of Mattawoman and Swansons Creeks & Branches Extending upward bounded by potomock on the West and Patuxent River on the East shall be and is hereby Constituted founded & Incorporated into a County of this Province and shall be Denominated Called and known by the name of Prince George's County and shall from and after

the said Twenty third day of Aprill next Ensueing being St. George's Day as aforesaid have and enjoy all other Rights benefitts and priviledges Equall with the other Countys of this Province such as sending Burgesses to Assemblies haveing County Courts Sherriffe Justices and other Officers and Ministers requisite & necessary and as used in other Countys of this Province."

At the time Prince George's County was erected there were settlements along the Patuxent nearly up to Laurel but there were few if any settlements on the Potomac side in the vicinity of Piscataway Creek on account of the presence of the friendly Indians, who had reserved to themselves this territory for a permanent abode. There were, however, settlements or small outposts at the mouth of Rock Creek within the present limits of Georgetown and along the Anacostia River in the vicinity of Hyattsville and Bladensburg, and as far up the Northwest Branch as the present Montgomery line.

Within the next two decades these settlements had extended beyond the present limits of Prince George's County although they were at that time within its limits. During these same years the whites began to settle on the territory formerly claimed by the Indians, who ultimately left the Europeans in undisputed possession.

The first curtailment of territory assigned Prince George's County occurred in 1748 when the county was reduced to its present limits, including the District of Columbia, by Chapters 14 and 15 of the Laws of Maryland for 1748. According to the first act which was stimulated by a petition by some of the freeholders in Prince George's County who found it inconvenient to attend the County Court at Upper Marlboro, it was enacted

"That from and after the Tenth Day of *December*, in the year One thousand seven hundred and forty eight the Land lying at present in *Prince George's* County, and contained within the bounds following, viz., by a Line drawn from *Mattawoman* run, in the Road commonly called the *Rolling Road*, that leads from the late dwelling Plantation of Mr. *Edward Neale*, through the lower Part of Mr. *Peter Dent's* Dwelling Plantation, until it strikes Patowmack River, at or near the bounded Tree of a Tract of Land whereon *John Beall*, junior now lives (standing on the Bank of the aforesaid River, at the lower end of the aforesaid *Beall's* Plantation) then with the River to the Mouth of *Mattawoman* Creek, shall be and for ever hereafter deemed as a Part of *Charles* County. . . ."

The second act passed in 1748 related to the erection of Frederick County from all the less settled portions of Prince George's County. According to this law it was enacted

"that all the land lying to the westward of a line beginning at the lower side of the mouth of Rock Creek and thence by a straight line joining to the east side of Seth Hyatts plantation, to the Patuxent River should be taken from Prince George's County and made into a new jurisdiction to be called Frederick County."

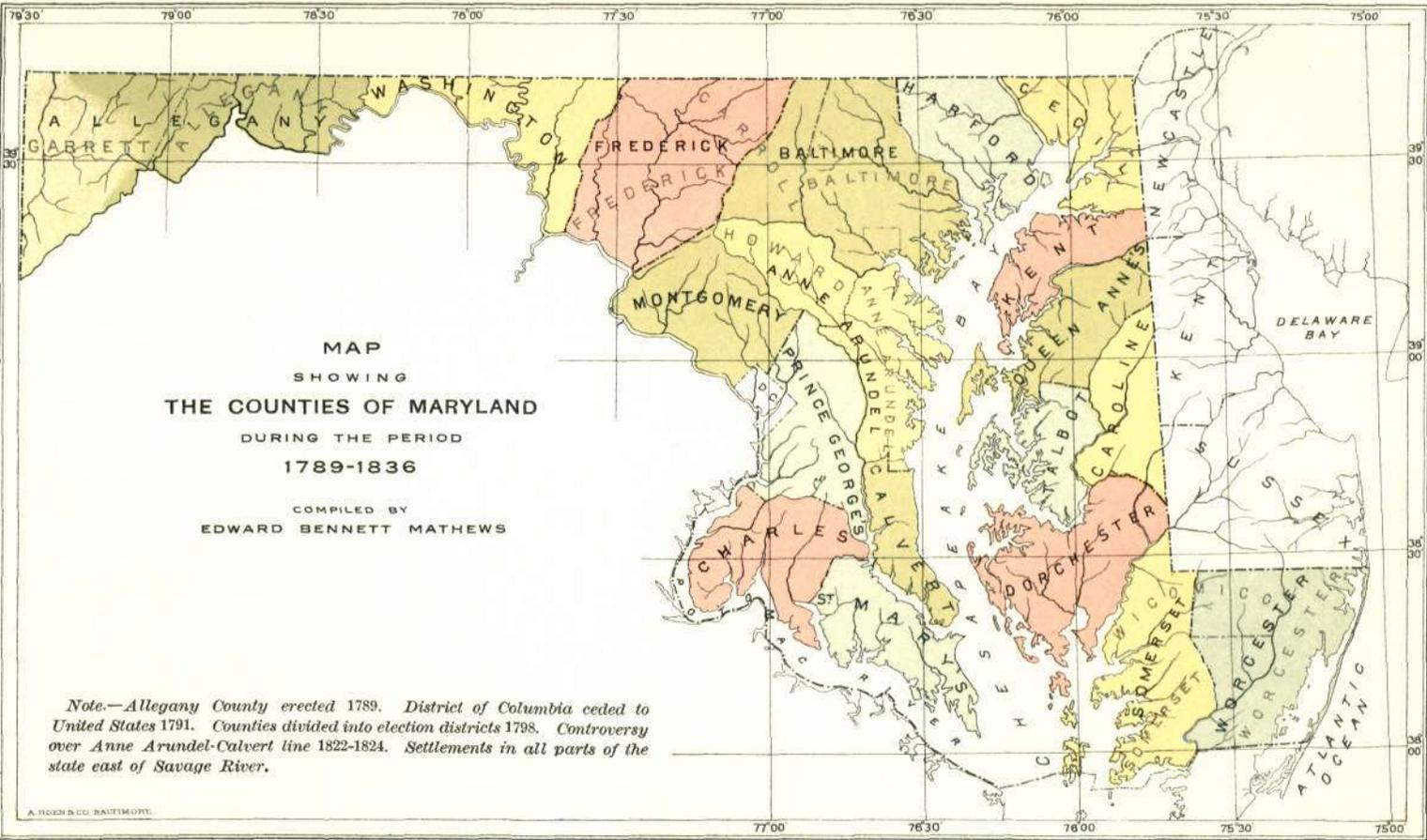
A portion of this line still forms the boundary between Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

The final change in the boundaries of Prince George's County was made in 1791 when the District of Columbia was ceded to the National Government from portions of Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY ELECTION DISTRICTS.

- 1798 Ch. 115. County divided into 5 election districts.
 1799 Ch. 48. Confirms Acts of 1798 Ch. 115.
 1799 Ch. 50. Commission appointed to divide county into 5 election districts.
 1816 Ch. 26. County divided into 6 separate districts, the additional district to be laid off from portions of the 2d, 3d, and 5th election districts.
 1817 Ch. 9. Confirms Acts of 1816 Ch. 26.
 1817 Ch. 30. Commission appointed to lay out the new district and to report to the County Clerk.
 1836 Ch. 114. Commission appointed to select a new polling place in 6th election district and to report to Clerk of Court before July 15, 1836.
 1843 Ch. 255. Commission appointed to lay off a new election district, No. 7, out of the 3d district and to report to County Clerk.
 1847 Ch. 8. Changes line between Bladensburg and Spalding's election districts to run as follows:
 "Beginning at a place called Jones' fork, which branches off from the stage road leading from Washington City, District Columbia, to Upper Marlboro', and from the said fork with the public road leading to Thomas B. Crawford's mill, and thence with a private road from said mill to a gate on the Springfield estate, formerly owned by Elisha Berry, standing near the public road leading to the forest of Prince George's, and from said gate to the stage road leading from Washington city to Upper Marlboro'."
 (Commissioners appointed.)

- 1847 Ch. 117. Supplemental act to Acts of 1843 Ch. 255 changing the polling place of the 7th election district to Queen Anne's.
- 1849 Ch. 123. Changes the line between the 1st and 7th election districts to run as follows:
 "Beginning at the mouth of a stream called the Horsepen branch, on the west bank of the big Patuxent river, and thence westerly with said stream to the farm or plantation of Mrs. Walter Bowie, and thence southerdly in a direct line to a place known as Hickory Hill, on the road between the farms or plantations of Mrs. Walter Bowie and Richard W. Isaacs, and thence with said road to its point of junction with the main or public road within and on the farm or plantation of Dr. Thomas McGill near the Chapel, and thence westerly with said road to its point of junction with the public or main road, within and on the farm or plantation of Mrs. Mary McGruder, and now the boundary line, in part, between said districts."
- 1849 Ch. 226. Additional election district, No. 8, erected from the 4th district to be called Aquasco, with the following bounds:
 "Beginning at the county wharf at Magruder's ferry, and running with the public road leading from thence to the Brick Church of St. Paul's Parish, from thence with the public road that leads to Washington, via T. B. until it shall intersect the line dividing Nottingham, or the fourth election district of the county, from the Piscataway, or the fifth election district of said county, then with the said dividing line of said district to the Charles county line and thence with the said county line and the Patuxent river, to the place of beginning."
- 1854 Ch. 221. Polling place of the 6th election district changed to Jesse Ridgeway's house.
- 1854 Ch. 301. Additional election district, No. 9, erected with the following bounds:
 "Beginning at a point on Piscataway branch at its intersection with the new cut road, and running up and with said branch, until it intersects the Marlborough and Piscataway road, thence with said road to a point where a road leading to Centreville commences, thence with the latter road to the Alexandria and Marlborough road, thence with the said road to Palmer's tavern, thence a road to the Marlborough and Piscataway road, to a road leading to Piscataway branch, thence with Piscataway branch to the place of beginning."
- 1861 Ch. 81. Polling place of the 6th election district changed to the village of "Long Old Fields."
- 1868 Ch. 262. Additional election district, No. 10, erected out of the 1st election district with the following bounds:
 "Beginning at the bridge across the Patuxent river



MAP
 SHOWING
THE COUNTIES OF MARYLAND
 DURING THE PERIOD
1789-1836

COMPILED BY
EDWARD BENNETT MATHEWS

Note.—Allegany County erected 1789. District of Columbia ceded to United States 1791. Counties divided into election districts 1798. Controversy over Anne Arundel-Calvert line 1822-1824. Settlements in all parts of the state east of Savage River.

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near the old Iron Works Mill and running thence up the road to the late Doctor Theodore Jenkins, thence leaving said road and running with the road leading by James Coursey's and the Mine Banks now owned by Charles E. Coffin, and with said road to John D. Latchford's, so as to include said Latchford's residence in the District hereby created, crossing the turnpike and railroad west of the said Latchford's house in a straight line to the Furnace road near Thomas Mitchell's, and running with said Furnace road to the new county road leading to Contee's Station, and thence with said road to the Montgomery County line, thence with the Prince George's County line to the beginning."

1868 Ch. 466. Calls for a marking of the Montgomery-Prince George's line and the filing of a map in each county seat.

1870 Ch. 226. Changes line between the Marlborough and Spalding's election districts as follows:

"Beginning at William Brady's blacksmith shop in the village of Forestville, and running thence with the public road leading from said village of Alexandria Ferry to its intersection with the public road leading from said Ferry to Upper Marlborough, at the lower gate of the estate of the late Charles F. Calvert, thence with the said Alexandria Ferry and Upper Marlborough road to its intersection with the Washington and Upper Marlborough road at Centreville, thence with said Washington and Upper Marlborough road to the place of beginning."

1870 Ch. 471. Appropriates money for marking Montgomery line.

1872 Ch. 226. Authorizes additional payments for running Montgomery line.

1872 Ch. 367. Additional election district, No. 11, created with the following bounds:

"Beginning for the same at the intersection of Burche's branch with the public road leading from Washington city to T. B. in Piscataway district, thence up the said branch with the Piscataway and Nottingham district line to the Marlboro' district line; thence with said Marlboro' district line to its intersection with the public road from Paul Talbert's to Croom's, at the farm of the late Adderton Sweeney; thence with said road toward Paul Talbert's to its intersection with the public road leading from Edward Magruder's farm, near Mattaponi branch thence with said road to the public road leading towards the residence of Mrs. Almira Turton, thence with said public road to its intersection with a small stream of water between the farms of said Mrs. Turton and the late Mrs. Susan Mudd; thence down said stream of water to Mattaponi branch; thence up said branch to the crossing of the public road at said branch below the farm of said Mrs.

Almira Turton; thence from said branch with the public road leading towards the village of Nottingham, until it intersects the public road from Brandywine to Nottingham; from this point in a straight line, to the private road of Henry F. Worthington's, leading through the farms of James A. Hyde, Leonard H. Early and R. W. G. Baden, to the private road from Horsehead to Nottingham; thence with said private road from said Worthington's to the branch between the farms of James A. Hyde and R. W. G. Baden; thence up said branch to the mouth of a small stream of water running through the western portion of said Baden's farm; thence up said stream to its source at St. Paul's Church Spring; thence to the public road at St. Paul's Church; thence with said public road leading towards Brandywine, until it strikes the public road leading from Robeyville; thence up said road to a small stream of water near the old public school house known as Forrest Grove; thence down said stream of water to the boundary line between Charles and Prince George's counties; thence with said line to the Mattawoman branch, with said branch to the public road leading from Beantown to Piscataway at G. W. Gardner's; thence with said road until it intersects the public road leading from Sharpensville to T. B.; thence in a straight line to the public road leading from Piscataway to T. B., at a point sixty yards below John A. Coe's dwelling, so as to include John A. Coe in the new district; thence in a straight line to Piscataway branch, to take Thomas H. Lusby in the new district and leave G. R. H. Marshall in Piscataway district; thence up said branch to the beginning."

1874 Ch. 487. Additional election^d district, No. 12, erected from parts of Piscataway and Spalding's election districts with the following bounds:

"Beginning at the boundary line between the District of Columbia and Prince George's county, at the ferry, and running with the river to Broad Creek; thence with said creek to J. W. Webster's, leaving said Webster's in Piscataway District; thence with the road leading from said Webster's to the late John Palmer's house; thence with the Marlboro road leading from Palmer's to the new road by Temple's Mill, it intersects Grimes' Cross-Roads, leading to Silver Hill Post-Office; and from thence in a straight line to a point on the district line, on the farm of Col. Maddox, and thence with said district line to the ferry."

1876 Ch. 147. Additional election district, No. 13, erected with the following bounds:

"Beginning at the Vansville district line intersecting

the branch road of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad from Baltimore to Washington city, then south with said railroad to the district line of the district of Columbia, then with the old established lines to the point of beginning."

- 1878 Ch. 180. Additional election district, No. 14, erected with the following bounds:

"Beginning for the same at the Priest bridge, and running with the county road west by Collington, on the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad, and through the farms of John T. Clark, Sr., Richard W. W. Bowie, C. C. Magruder, Jr., Cecelia Cross and George Duale, of D., to Buena Vista, on the Bladensburg line to Mrs. Friends, thence north in a straight line between the property of James B. Smith and Henry Soper to the head of Beck's branch, thence with said branch to and across the Beaver Dam branch, thence in a straight north line to the public road leading from Beltsville to the Patuxent river at the iron works bridge, thence with said river to the place of beginning."

- 1882 Ch. 311. Enlarges Spalding election district according to the following line:

"Beginning for the same on the District of Columbia and Upper Marlboro' turnpike, opposite the residence of Thomas W. Smoot, near Centreville, and extending north-eastwardly to and including the dwelling-house of Elisha E. Berry; thence in the same direction to the point on the public road leading from Forestville to William Shuler's farm, where the private road which leads to the farm and residence of J. T. Berry intersects the same; thence with said public road northwestwardly to the aforesaid turnpike at William T. Moore's blacksmith shop; thence with said turnpike to the beginning."

- 1898 Ch. 130. Additional election district, No. 15, erected from portions of the 3d and 6th election districts with the following bounds:

"Beginning at a point on the road leading from Upper Marlboro to Croome, where the corporate limits of Upper Marlboro crosses said road, it being near the rectory of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Upper Marlboro, and running with road until it reaches the boundary line of Nottingham district or Election District No. 4; thence with the present line separating Election District No. 3, or Marlboro District, from Election District No. 4, or Nottingham District; thence with the boundary line separating Election District No. 3, or Marlboro District, from Election District No. 11, or Brandywine district, to the line separating said Election District No. 3 from Election

District No. 9, or Surratts District; thence with the line separating the two last mentioned districts, to Spalding's District line near the store house of Enos F. Pumphrey; thence with the road from Washington to Marlboro, formerly a turnpike, to a point on said road where a road turns off leading to Camp Springs, said point being a little west of the present residence of George W. Richardson; thence in a straight line northwardly to A. B. Sansbury's store; thence with the public road in front of said store, which leads from Forestville to W. H. Shuler's residence, leaving said store in Spalding's District eastwardly, to the Marlboro District line at the intersection of the last mentioned road and the road which leads to the county almshouse; thence with the line separating Marlboro and Spalding's Districts to the line of Election District No. 13, or Kent District; thence with the line separating Marlboro and Kent Districts to a road which intersects said line at a point between the farms of the heirs of the late William J. Bowie and Corydore Coville; thence with said road through the farm of John F. McGregor past the farms of Elisha E. Berry, John H. Traband and others, until it reaches the bridge on the road from Marlboro to Washington, near the residence of George C. Merrick; thence with the corporate limits of Upper Marlboro, first in a westwardly and then in a southerly direction to the beginning, leaving all of the town of Upper Marlboro in the third or Marlboro Election District."

- 1898 Ch. 328. Changes line between Surratt's and Piscataway Election districts to be as follows:

"The said line shall start at the point where the said division line turns east below Tipp's store, and shall thence run north to Tinker's branch, to the division line between said districts to the point where the said branch crosses the public road in John Steed's farm; and it shall be the duty of the Supervisors of Election, etc. . . ."

- 1900 Ch. 308. Additional election district, No. 16, erected from the 2d election district as follows:

"That a new election district be laid out and established out of Bladensburg District laying northwest of the main stem or Washington branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in Prince George's County, to be known by the name of Election District No. 16 or Hyattsville Election District.

And that the boundaries of said Election District No. 16, or Hyattsville District, shall be as follows: Beginning at a point where the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad crosses the Vansville Election District line at College Station; thence along said railroad to the District of Columbia line; thence

with District of Columbia line to the Montgomery County line to the place of beginning.

That the portion of the present Bladensburg District, or Election District No. 2, situated and laying southeast of the Washington branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, be and the same is hereby made a new district to be known as and called Bladensburg Election District, or Election District No. 2."

1902. Ch. 66. Line between the 13th and 7th election districts changed to run as follows:

"Beginning at the point on the boundary of the fourteenth election district of said county where it now begins, and running from thence with the road leading to Hall's Station on the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad until it reaches the Northeast branch; thence with said branch until it intersects the Western branch; and thence with the Western branch to the northern boundary line of the third election district."

- 1906 Ch. 345. Additional election district No. 17, erected from parts of the 16th and 2d election districts with the following bounds:

"Beginning at the points where the tracks of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad cross the "Northwest Branch" and running thence with the meanders of said branch in a westerly direction to the point where the said branch leaves the corporate limits of Hyattsville; thence in a northerly direction to the point where the "Ellersville road" intersects the "New Cut road"; thence in a northeasterly direction with said "New Cut road" to its intersection with the "Coalsville road"; thence in a northerly direction with said last mentioned road to where it intersects the public road leading to the Maryland Agricultural College; thence in an easterly direction with the present dividing line between Vansville and Hyattsville districts; and according to the present location of said dividing line to where the same intersects the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad; thence in a southerly direction with the line of said railroad to a point directly opposite to the electric power house at Riverdale, and from said Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, at said point, in a southeasterly direction to a gate on the property of Charles A. Machems near the gravel hill on the "Edmonston road"; thence southerly with said "Edmonston road" to the northern corporate limits of Bladensburg; thence westerly with said corporate limits to a point where the "Eastern Branch" intersects the "North West Branch" to a point where the tracks of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad crosses said "North West Branch," the place of beginning."

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY.

Queen Anne's County, although not erected until 1706, includes within its borders the earliest settlement of Europeans along the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay. The early trading post of William Claiborne was erected on Kent Island in 1631, and settlements were made on the mainland about 1647, a few years prior to the agreement with the Indians made in the summer of 1652, which allowed the establishment of white settlements on either side of Chesapeake Bay as far south as the Choptank and Patuxent rivers.

The early settlements of Queen Anne's County were included first in Kent and subsequently in Talbot counties until the Maryland inhabitants had been so thoroughly distributed over the entire Eastern Shore as to make it advisable to take up with more care the division of the territory into counties. After several petitions had been presented to the Assembly of 1704 and referred to the next succeeding session the General Assembly of 1706 enacted a law which was approved April 18, 1706, entitled:

"An Act for the dividing and regulating several counties on the eastern shore of this province, and constituting a county, by the name of Queen Anne's County, within the same province."³¹

When this law was enacted there had been already erected on the Eastern Shore the counties of Cecil, Kent, Talbot, Dorchester, and Somerset, the latter two embraced all the territory south of the Choptank while the first four covered the territory north of this river. By the law of 1706 the region between the Sassafras on the north and the Choptank on the south was divided into three counties, the third being the new county of Queen Anne's. According to the law

"From and after the said 1st of May, 1707, the Island called Kent Island, and all of the land on the south side of Chester river, to a branch called Sewell's branch the said branch to the head thereof, and from thence with an east line to the extent of this province, and bounded on the south with Talbot county, to Tuckahoe bridge and from thence with Tuckahoe creek and Choptank river to the mouth of a branch falling into the said river, called

³¹ Chapter 3 of the Laws of 1706.

or known by the name of White Marble Branch, and from thence with a northeast line, to the extent of this province, shall be, and is hereby constituted founded and incorporated into a county of this province, by the name of Queen Anne's county and to have and enjoy all rights benefits, privileges, equal with the other counties of this province.

The eastern limits of the province of Maryland remained unsettled during the years of controversy between the proprietors of Maryland and those of Pennsylvania who had acquired control of Delaware until the Chancery decision of 1750, and no line was run to indicate its location until a decade later when the local surveyors who immediately preceded Mason and Dixon cut a vista along the boundary as it now is in their efforts to establish a true tangent line. The boundary was not marked until 1765, when Mason and Dixon erected the well-known monuments which had been imported from England. Before the settlement of the boundary there had been little or no development of the disputed territory which lay midway between the waters of the Delaware and the Chesapeake and little inconvenience had arisen from the uncertainty regarding the position of the State boundary.

Scarcely ten years after the final settlement of the eastern boundary, portions of Queen Anne's and Dorchester counties were erected into the new county of Caroline. According to the Act²² the boundary line between Queen Anne's and Caroline counties was to run from the intersection of the State boundary with

"the main road that leads from the Beaver-dam causeway to Dover-town in Kent county, upon Delaware, thence with the said road to the Long marsh, thence with the said marsh and stream of the branch of Tuckahoe creek to Tuckahoe bridge, thence with the said creek to Great Choptank river."

According to this boundary all the territory lying between the main branch of the Choptank on the east and Tuckahoe bridge on the west, which had formerly been a part of Queen Anne's county was taken from it and given to Caroline.

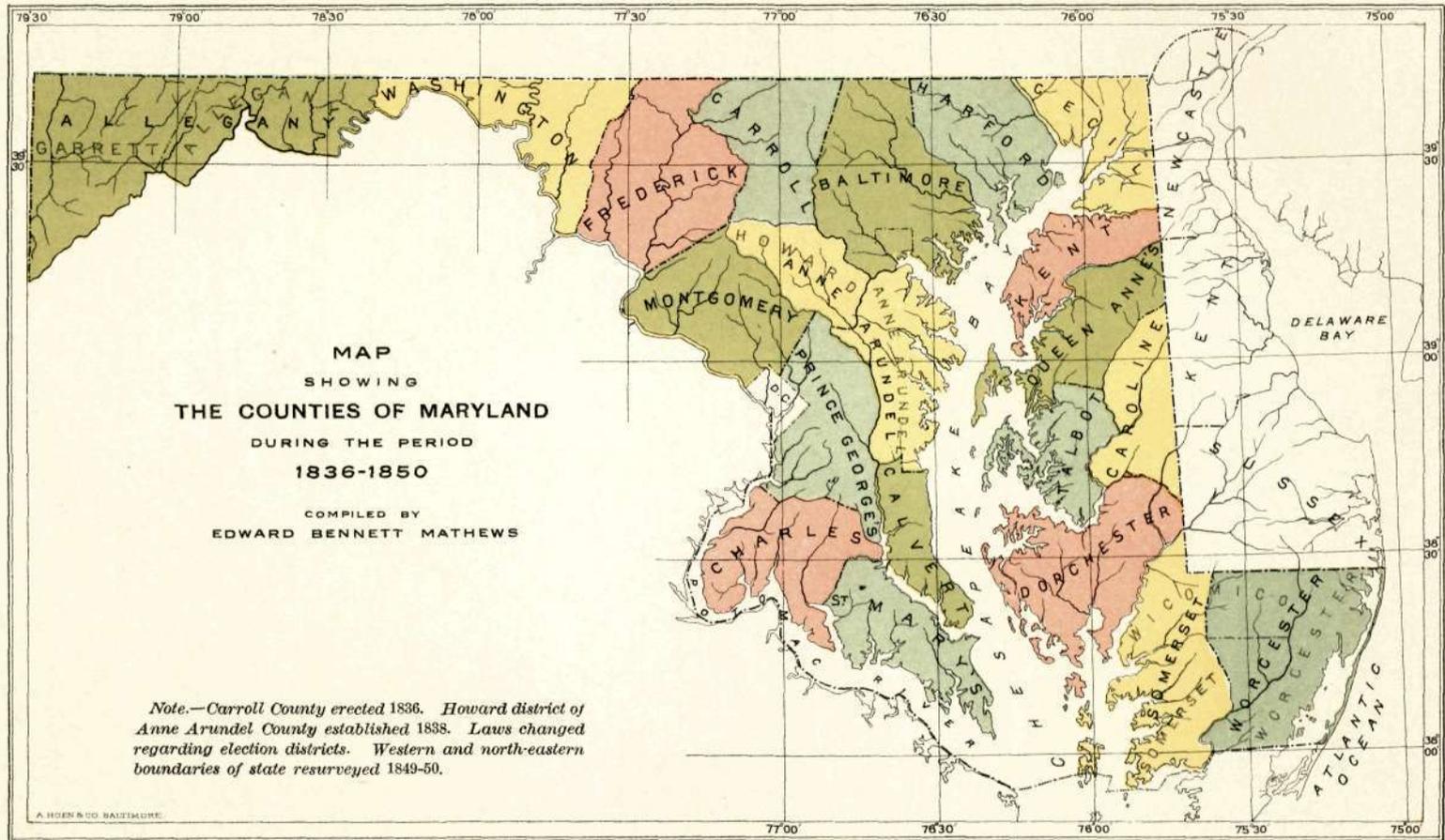
QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY ELECTION DISTRICTS.

1798 Ch. 115. County divided into 3 election districts.

1799 Ch. 48. Confirms Acts of 1798 Ch. 115.

²² Laws of Maryland 1773, Chapter 10, Liber R G. Fol. 249.

- 1799 Ch. 50. Commission appointed to divide county into 3 election districts.
- 1820 Ch. 69. County divided into 4 election districts, the 4th district laid off adjoining and between the 1st and 2d districts.
- 1821 Ch. 27. Confirms Acts of 1820 Ch. 69.
- 1821 Ch. 92. Commission appointed to lay off the county in 4 election districts who are to report to County Clerk.
- 1826 Ch. 180. County divided into 5 election districts, the new one to be taken from the 3d election district.
- 1827 Ch. 1. Confirms Acts of 1826 Ch. 180.
- 1827 Ch. 25. Commission appointed to lay out the new district.
- 1849 Ch. 79. Polling place of 1st election district changed to or near Dening's Store.
- 1876 Ch. 75. Additional election district, No. 6, erected out of parts of 1st, 2d, and 3d election districts as follows:
 "Beginning at Hillsborough, and running with the division line which separates Caroline and Queen Anne's counties, up to the public road from Bennett Down's to the public road running from Roesville; thence with the public road running from William D. Smith's to the brick school house; thence with the public road to Carrville station; thence with the public road to the public road running from Ruthsburg to Centreville; thence with a straight or imaginary line to Hall's Cross Roads; thence with the public road to Willoughby' shops; thence with the public road dividing Queen Anne's and Talbot counties to the beginning point."
- 1882 Ch. 244. Additional election district, No. 7, erected out of portions of the 1st and 2d election districts as follows:
 "Beginning at the bridge spanning Chester river, at a place known as Turner's mills, above Sandtown, and following the public road in a southerly direction until it intersects the public road leading from Andover branch to Sandtown; thence with said road in a southwesterly direction to the forks of said road; thence with the left fork in a southwesterly direction between the lands of Edwin W. Spear, John Benson and others, until it intersects what is known as Casey's cross-roads; thence with the public road direct to Hackett's Corner; said road leading between the lands of James B. Stevens, Edwin W. Spear, Benjamin T. Brigg's, the heirs of Thomas Taylor, Joseph E. Briscoe's land, also Samuel Casey and John C. Hackett; said Hackett's Corner intersects the main road leading from Sudlersville to Cappage's Landing; from thence in a straight line to the waters of Red Lyon branch, at a place known as William L. Godwin's mill-pond; thence up and with said branch until it intersects the public



MAP
 SHOWING
THE COUNTIES OF MARYLAND
 DURING THE PERIOD
1836-1850

COMPILED BY
EDWARD BENNETT MATHEWS

Note.—Carroll County erected 1836. Howard district of Anne Arundel County established 1838. Laws changed regarding election districts. Western and north-eastern boundaries of state resurveyed 1849-50.

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road leading from Crumpton to Dudley's Chapel, at John McFadden's grist mill; thence along and with said public road in a southerly direction until it intersects the public road leading from Sudlersville to Church Hill, at school house number eight; thence along and with said public road leading to Church Hill until it intersects the direct road to J. B.; thence along and with said road to J. B.; from thence along and with the public road leading between the lands of William Hopkins, Joel R. Clements and John F. Godwin, until it intersects the public road leading between the lands of said John F. Godwin, John T. Baxter and others, to the main road leading from Barton's Corner to Church Hill; thence along and with said road in a northerly direction to Barton's Corner; from thence with the public road leading between the lands of Johns Evans, William Hurlock and the heirs of John Brown to African Union Church; thence with the public road running between the lands of Dr. Joseph Catlin, James Francis Hall and William Hurlock, and the heirs of Joseph Catlin, deceased, until it intersects the public road leading from Sandtown to Chestertown at Round Top Corner; thence with said Chestertown road in a westerly direction until it intersects the branch flowing into Rosin Creek; said creek running between the lands of the heirs of B. S. Ford, the Kibler tract, and others; thence with the waters of said branch and creek to the waters of the Chester river; thence with Chester river to the place of beginning."

1888 Ch. 268. 5th election district divided into two separate election precincts.

"By a line beginning at the head of Blunt's creek, an estuary of Chester river, and running thence in a straight line to the head of Dividing cove of Wye river, between the lands of Mrs. Mary C. Bryan and the lands of William W. Nelson, and thence with Wye river to the extreme end of Bennett's Point; that part of said fifth election district lying north and east of said line and including Wye island to be and constitute one of said precincts, and to be known as Queenstown, or precinct number one. That part of said district lying south and west of said line to be and constitute the other of said precincts, and to be known as Winchester, or precinct number two.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY.

St. Mary's County is the parent county of the State as in it the first settlement was made in 1634 under the grant to Lord Baltimore. During the succeeding years the settlement on the St. Mary's River was slowly extended along the shores of the Potomac towards the present western limits of the county. At an early date settlements were also made along both shores of the Patuxent River as high as Mataponi Creek. During the first year or two of settlement when the few colonists present were busily engaged in establishing their homes, there appears to have been no county government, the affairs being regulated directly by Governor Calvert and his advisers.

The date of the erection of a county government for St. Mary's is not known, the first reference, however, is under date of June 29, 1637, when a commission was issued to James Boldridge as sheriff (Md. Arch., 3:61). A few months later the county was spoken of as such and county officials were mentioned. During February following a bill was introduced incorporating the Isle of Kent as a Hundred of St. Mary's County. Other documents show that the inhabitants along the Patuxent were also included in the same jurisdiction. It is therefore evident that at first St. Mary's County maintained control over all of the settlements within the limits of the Province, even though far beyond the confines of the present county.

The first abridgement of its jurisdiction is indicated in October, 1640, when Kent Island is first spoken of as a county, although John Langford had been appointed a sheriff for the Island about the time that St. Mary's county itself was erected. This earlier date is the one usually chosen for the creation of Kent County but the conceptions of county limits and county authority were somewhat vague at that time.

The second curtailment of the territory included within St. Mary's County was made in 1650, when Charles County was erected as a favor to Robert Brookes, a friend of Lord Baltimore, who was on the point of bringing a company of colonists to the Province. This Charles County, usually spoken of as Old Charles County, included the settlements on either side of the Patuxent River to the head of navigation. It was the

fore-runner of Calvert County, to which it was changed a few years later. As the maps show, St. Mary's County at this time was settled only a short distance into the woods from the shores of the Potomac, and the northern limits of its jurisdiction followed the divide between the Patuxent and Potomac drainage. Anne Arundel County was also erected from portions of St. Mary's County in 1650 to accommodate the new settlements made on the shores of the Severn. This new county may possibly have included one or two inhabitants who had formerly been counted in St. Mary's County, but it is doubtful if settlements on the Patuxent River had passed the mouth of Lyons Creek at that early day. The settlements on the Severn were made during the year preceding the erection of Anne Arundel County.

The Puritan government of 1654-1656 changed the names of the three counties on the Western Shore since the originals flavored too strongly of Romanism. For a short time St. Mary's County was officially known as Potomac County.

The year 1658 marks the limitation of St. Mary's County on the west by the erection of the new Charles County. This is evidenced by an order in Council dated April 13, 1658 (Md. Arch., 3:308), and the references to a sheriff of Charles County in the early part of 1659. This new county probably included part of the territory embraced in the older Charles County on the Patuxent River. The record of the limits established at this time have not been found. The present definition of the western boundary of St. Mary's County is found in the general Act of Assembly of 1695. This Act was introduced on the 21st of May and was passed on the following day. According to its terms

"from & after the Twenty third day of Aprill next being St Georges Day after the end of the present Session of Assembly . . . the bounds of St Marys County shall begin att Point Look out and Extend it Selfe up Potomock River to the Lower Side of Birds Creek and so over by a Straight line Drawn from the head of the maine branch of the said Birds Creek to the head of Indian Creek in Putuxent River and which falls into Putuxent River including all that Land lying between Putuxent and Potomock Rivers from the lower part of the said two Creeks and branches of Birds and Indian Creek by the line aforesaid and Point Look out as aforesaid."

This definition of the county boundaries holds to-day and St. Mary's

County is the earliest to receive its final form. Each of the other eleven counties then existing has had some modification, although that of Calvert has been no more than the sharper definition of its line with Anne Arundel County. Charles County received a small part of the territory assigned at this time to Prince George's County, but otherwise remains the same. Cecil County has been curtailed by the transfer of the south bank of the Sassafras to Kent County. All of the others have yielded territory for the formation of new counties.

ST. MARY'S ELECTION DISTRICTS.

- 1798 Ch. 115. County divided into 3 election districts.
 1799 Ch. 48. Confirms Acts of 1798 Ch. 115.
 1799 Ch. 50. Commission appointed to divide county into 3 election districts.
 1801 Ch. 59. Commission authorized to make alterations and report to County Clerk.
 1806 Ch. 29. County divided into 4 election districts, the additional election district "adjoining and between the first and third districts as they are now numbered."
 1807 Ch. 8. Confirms Act of 1806 Ch. 29.
 1807 Ch. 28. Commission appointed to review election districts and to make changes provided district No. 2 remain unchanged.
 1816 Ch. 5. Polling place of the election district No. 2 changed.
 1822 Ch. 112. County divided into 5 election districts, the additional district to be taken and laid off from the 4th election district.
 1823 Ch. 154. Commission appointed to lay off the 5th election district, Charlotte Hall and Chaptico to be places of election in the 4th and 5th election districts.
 1824 Ch. 16. Acts of Commission legalized, confirmed and made valid.
 1831 Ch. 190. Commission appointed to ascertain and describe the bounds of the several election districts and to report to the Clerk of County Court before Aug. 1, 1832.
 1856 Ch. 277. New election district, No. 6, established with the following bounds:
 "Commencing at the Horse landing on the Patuxent river, thence with the most direct main road to St. Joseph's church, thence with said road by Bond's store and until it intersects the Rich Neck road, thence across Rich Neck swamp with said main road to its junction with the Mackintosh road near M. Joy's farm, thence from said junction in the most direct route to the division line and up the Patuxent river to the place of beginning."

- 1876 Ch. 283. Additional election district, No. 7, erected from the 4th election district as follows:

"Beginning at the crossing of St. Clements Bay Run, by the stage road, and running thence with said stage road towards Chaptico, until it reaches the north-east end or corner of "Neales' Lot," on said stage road, thence by a direct line to the head waters of Brambly Creek, thence by the waters of the Wicomico and Potomac Rivers and St. Clement's Bay to the beginning, including the several islands contiguous to the last described waters. . . . So much of the fourth election district as is not included within the aforesaid lines, shall continue to be known as the fourth election district."

- 1878 Ch. 423. Changes part of the dividing line between 4th and 5th election districts to run as follows:

"That that portion of the fourth election district of St. Mary's county lying north of a straight line starting from a point at which the road leading from the Three Notch road to St. Joseph Church, known as the Forest Hall road, intersects the said Three Notch road, running thence north eighty-eight degrees, west three and one-half miles, to the junction of Sothoron's run with the northwest branch of Chaptico bay, be and the same is hereby taken from said fourth election district of said county and added to and included in the limits of the fifth election district of said county."

- 1878 Ch. 466. Additional election district No. 8, erected from part of the 2d election district.

"So much of the second election district of St. Mary's county as lies on the northeast side of the following lines shall be known as the "Bay" or "Eighth Election District"; that is to say beginning at the line of the third election district where the same is intersected by what is known as the "Western Branch," and running with said branch to the head of St. Mary's river, thence with said river to the line of the first election district; and the voting place in said eighth election district shall be at "Centerville."

So much of the second district as lies on the southwest side of the aforesaid dividing line shall still continue to be known as the second election district, and the place of voting in said district shall be at or near the "Oak Store."

- 1882 Ch. 140. Changes the lines between the 4th and 7th election districts so

"That so much of the Fourth Election District of St. Mary's county as is included in the following lines shall hereafter be known as the Seventh Election District, that

is to say: Beginning at the crossing of St. Clement's bay run by the stage road, and running thence with said stage road towards Chaptico, until it reaches the northeast end or corner of "Neale's lot," on said stage road; thence by a direct line to the headwaters of "Notley Hall creek"; thence by the waters of the Wicomico and Potomac rivers and St. Clement's bay to the beginning."

- 1884 Ch. 259. Additional election district, Island district number nine, erected out of election district No. 2.

"That a new election district be formed out of St. George's island, a part of the Factory district, or election district number two, . . . to be known as the Island district, or election district number nine."

- 1888 Ch. 522. Changes boundary line between 5th and 6th election districts as follows:

"Beginning at Turner's Store, situated on the three notch road, and running with said road to the road leading from said three notch road, and through the lands of G. W. L. Buckler and W. C. Ruder to a place called and known as "Horse Landing," on the Patuxent river."

- 1902 Ch. 65. Commissioners appointed to resurvey and mark the Charles County line.

SOMERSET COUNTY.

Settlements were made in the territory now forming part of Somerset County in the early years (1661) of the planting of Maryland. Others were also made on the eastern shore of Virginia, but those were sufficiently separated to leave little occasion for the controversies regarding boundaries which have marked the territory during the last two centuries and a half. By 1663 the disputes were sufficiently frequent to cause correspondence between Governor Calvert and the governor of Virginia, and in 1665 a commission was appointed by the two states for the running of a divisional line. On the 25th of June, 1868, an agreement was made between Philip Calvert and Edmund Scarborough regarding the line which had already been run. This line constitutes the southern boundary of Somerset and Worcester counties. The record of the creation of Somerset County in the form of a proclamation from Cecilius, Lord Baltimore, to Stephen Horsey and others is preserved in the Proceedings of the Council, Liber HH, pp. 268-270.³³ That

³³ Md. Arch., 3: 553-555.

portion of the proclamation, dated August 22, 1666, dealing with the limits of the county, runs as follows:

"Caecilius Absolute lord . . . for the ease & benefitt of the people of this or pvince & for the Speedy & more exact Admcon of Justice have erected & doe by theis pnts erect all tht Tract of land within this our province of Maryland bounded on the South with a line drawne from Wattkins point (being the North point of tht bay into wch the River Wighco formly called Wighcocomoco afterwards Pocomoke & now Wighcocomoco againe doth fall exclusively) to the Ocean on the East. Nantecoke river on the North & the Sound of Chesipiake bay on the West into a County by the name of Sommersett County in honor to our Deare Sister the lady Mary Somerset. . . ."

The erection of this county was but one of many steps taken by the proprietor to stimulate settlement along that portion of his territory on the Eastern Shore which was gradually becoming occupied by people from the Delaware side who held patents from representatives of the Duke of York. On October 22, 1669, the rent of any who should settle on the seaboard side was reduced to a shilling for each fifty acres; at the same time it was also ordered in accordance with the instructions from the lord proprietor under date of 28th of July, 1669,

"that from the Whore kill to the degree of forty Northerly Latitude be erected into a County and called by the Name of Durham County and that from the Hore kill to Mount Scarborough be likewise erected into a County & called as the Lord Proprietary shall hereafter direct" (Md. Arch., 5: 57). These counties were evidently intended to include part of what had but a few years before been assigned to Somerset County and the dividing line, determined in great measure by the area settled, would probably have followed along the divide of the Delaware-Chesapeake watershed. The records, however, of these counties show that they never existed except in name. Officers, it is true, were appointed and certain land records were kept but the title to the territory was in dispute, the inhabitants in great part of different stock and nationality from that of St. Mary's, and little authority was ever exercised by the Maryland government in these temporary counties. If Durham and its companion county had been erected permanently the eastern boundary of Somerset County would have been changed to approximately as it was in 1742 when the Worcester County of to-day was erected.

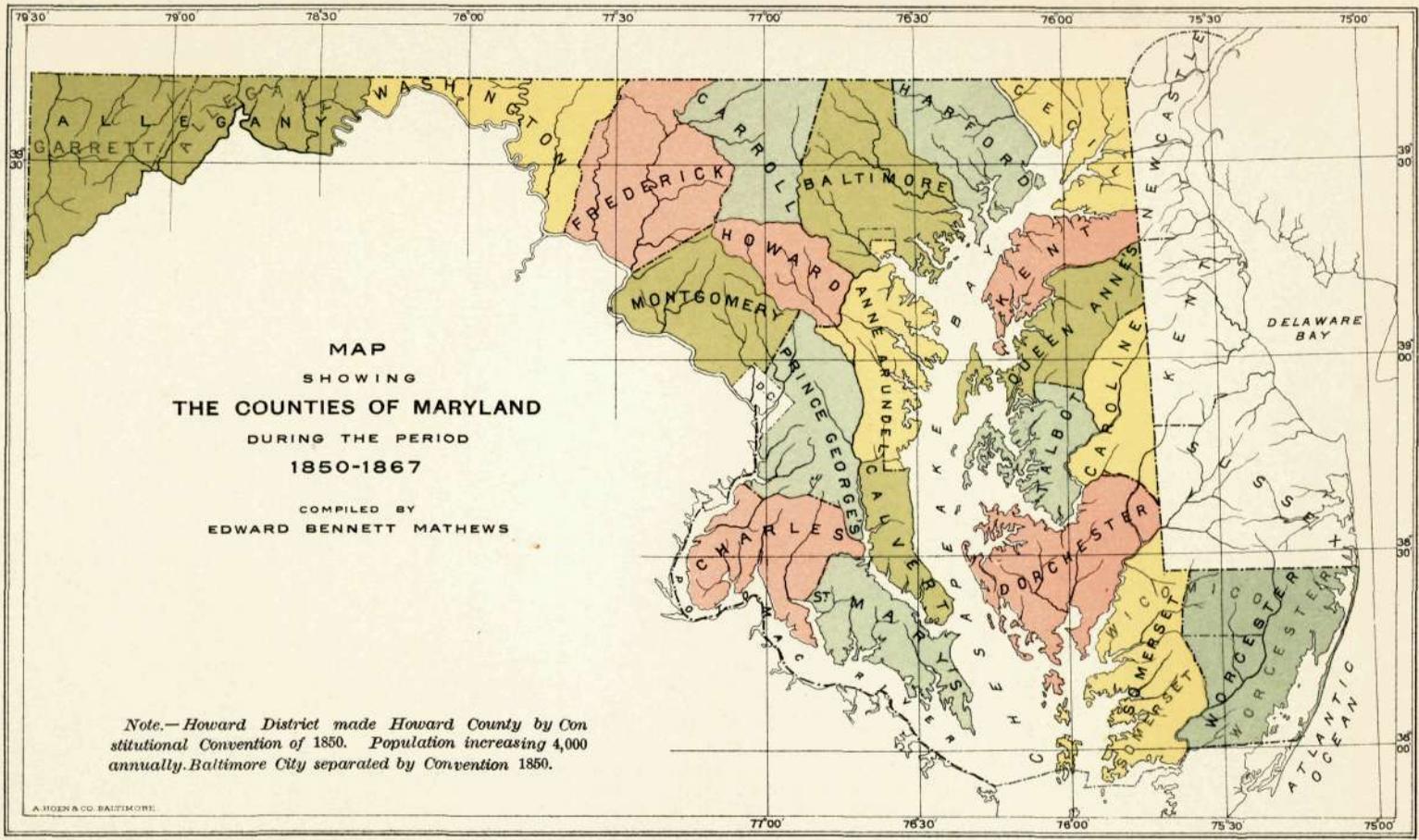
It is, however, interesting to note the claims implied by the limits of these counties in their bearing on the broader question of the ownership of the Delaware seaboard which was the subject of so much discussion before the Privy Council Committee of Trade and Plantations during the years 1683 to 1685. According to the Herrman map of 1670 Mount Scarborough lay just south of the present town of Snow Hill in Worcester County. It would accordingly appear that in the lord proprietor's mind his title to the territory from the Calvert-Scarborough line of 1668 to the Whorekill was equally good in all parts, a fact which has its bearing on the assertions of the Penns that Cape Henlopen lay some 15 or 20 miles south of the Whorekill at the time of the original grant.

The unnamed county foreshadowed in the proprietary's instructions of 1669 was approximately the same as that named and defined by the proclamation of June 19, 1672, by which Worcester County was erected out of a portion of Somerset. According to the proclamation the proprietor states

"for that we are informed that Several Persons are seated there without our Leave or License or without the Leave or License of our Captain General of our said Province and we having erected that part of our Province Beginning at the Southernmost Branch of a Bay now called Rehoboth Bay and from thence running Northerly up the Sea Board side to the South Cape of Delaware Bay and thence to the Whore keil Creeke and up the Bay to the fortieth degree Northerly Latitude into a County and do hereby erect the same into a County and it is our will and Pleasure that it shall be a County and called by the name of worcester County in our said Province of Maryland." (Md. Arch., 5: 108.)

This county, like its companion Durham County, was only temporary and is distinct from the Worcester County erected in 1742, although the area included is approximately the same except in so far as the modification of the exterior limits of Maryland influenced the county. As in the case of the original instructions the boundary line between Somerset and Worcester was not defined even in the more detailed proclamation of 1672. It is probable that the line, if occasion had arisen for its location, would have been placed about the same as the later line prescribed by the Act of 1742.

In the fall of 1684 the question of jurisdiction over the territory



MAP
 SHOWING
THE COUNTIES OF MARYLAND
 DURING THE PERIOD
1850-1867

COMPILED BY
EDWARD BENNETT MATHEWS

Note.—Howard District made Howard County by Constitutional Convention of 1850. Population increasing 4,000 annually. Baltimore City separated by Convention 1850.

A. HIGER & CO. BALTIMORE.

lying between the northwest (Marshyhope Creek) and the northeast branches of the Nanticoke River became acute. Prior to this time Somerset County as the older had assumed the northwest branch to be the main Nanticoke River, and had accordingly exercised authority over the territory between the two branches. On October 4, 1684, the Governor and Council issued an order that the bounds of Somerset and Dorchester County be determined. A commission was appointed to ascertain the main branch of the Nanticoke River and the bounds between the two counties and their findings were ordered to be filed with the next succeeding Provincial Court (Md. Arch., 17:286 cited under Dorchester County). The decision of the commission was that the main branch was the one that has been accepted as such from that time to the present day. This decision of the commissioners defining the meaning of the original boundaries fixed the location of the northern boundaries of Somerset County permanently, except in so far as they have been subsequently modified by the determination of the Delaware-Maryland boundary line and the erection of Worcester and Wicomico counties.

The erection of Worcester County by the Acts of 1742, Chapter 19, permanently limited Somerset County on the east. The line at this time according to the Act was to run

“up the Westernmost Side of the said Creek [Dividing Creek] and to the Bridges called Denstone's Bridges, and from thence West to the main road called Parahawkin-Road; thence up and with the said road to John Caldwell, seniors, saw-mill, thence up and with the said road over Cox's Branch, to Broad Creek Bridge, and down the said Branch and Creek into Nanticoke-River.”

This boundary remained the limit of Somerset County on the east until the State Convention of 1867 when Wicomico County was erected out of portions of Somerset and Worcester counties. The old boundary ran from the crossing of Dividing Creek by the road from Snow Hill to Princess Anne along the road running from that point to Fruitland, and thence to Salisbury along the main road on the east side of the railroad to Laurel, Delaware. By the decision of 1750 determining the Delaware boundary line the Somerset boundary stopped just east of Delmar and

thence followed west and north the state boundary to the Nanticoke River.

According to the boundaries of Wicomico County established in 1867 all that portion hitherto belonging to Somerset County lying north of a line passing

“ up the channel of the Wicomico River to the mouth of the Wicomico Creek, thence with the channel of said creek and Passerdyke Creek to Dashield's or Disharoon's Mills, thence with the mill-pond of said mills and branch following the middle prong of said branch, to Meadow Bridge, on the road, dividing the Counties of Somerset and Worcester, near the southwest corner of farm of William P. Morris ”

was set apart to form the western portion of the newly erected county.

SOMERSET COUNTY ELECTION DISTRICTS.

- 1798 Ch. 115. County divided into 3 election districts.
 1799 Ch. 48. Confirms Acts of 1798 Ch. 115.
 1799 Ch. 50. Commission appointed to divide county into 3 election districts.
 1821 Ch. 159. Commission appointed to select polling place for the 3d election district.
 1824 Ch. 146. County divided into 6 election districts, the first or upper to be divided into 3 and the second or middle into two, and the third or lower to remain.
 1825 Ch. 27. Confirms Acts of 1824 Ch. 146.
 1825 Ch. 69. Enacts that election district No. 2 or the Middle District shall be further subdivided and that 2 additional election districts shall be established therein; one of which shall be made convenient to the voters on the north side of Wicomico Creek, and the other shall be at or near Dublin or Cokesbury.
 1826 Ch. 68. Confirms Acts of 1825 Ch. 69.
 1828 Ch. 123. Commission appointed to change the line between Dublin and Brinkley districts to run as follows:
 “ Beginning on Pocomoke river at the divisional line of the lands of Littleton Dennis and George W. Powell, and to run thence northwardly with the same to Steven's Branch, and thence up, by and with the said branch to the county road leading from Curtis' chapel to Stevens' Ferry.”
 1829 Ch. 115. Changes polling place of Dames Quarter district.
 1831 Ch. 127. Enacts that so much of the lower election district of Somerset county, as is contained within the following lines, that is to say, beginning at Steven's Ferry, and running thence by and with the county road, by James Smith's, until it strikes the county road, leading to Rehoboth, and thence crossing the said road in a line direct until it strikes the

- Pocomoke river, to the eastward of the mansion of Littleton Upshur Dennis, Esquire, and thence by and with the said river to the place of beginning at Stevens' Ferry, by and the same is hereby added to the Dublin election district.
- 1831 Ch. 33. Princess Anne election district subdivided and additional district established convenient to voters of Hungry Neck.
- 1831 Ch. 147. Commission appointed to divide Somerset County north of Wicomico into 4 (Barren Creek, Tyaskin, Quantico, Salisbury) election districts.
- 1832 Ch. 5. Confirms Acts of Commissioners appointed by Acts of 1831 Ch. 33.
- 1832 Ch. 31. Confirms Acts of 1831 Ch. 147.
- 1833 Ch. 7. Prolonging time to carry out provisions of Acts of 1831 Ch. 33.
- 1833 Ch. 11. Additional election district erected to be known as the Smith's Island district.
- 1834 Ch. 21. Confirms Acts of 1833 Ch. 11.
- 1837 Ch. 356. Commission appointed to designate a polling place in Salisbury.
- 1841 Ch. 36. Commission appointed to designate polling place in Tyaskin district.
- 1847 Ch. 246. Commission appointed to fix a polling place in Salisbury.
- 1852 Ch. 24. Additional election district, No. 11, erected, It enacts:
 "That part of Somerset County known as Potato Neck, and bounded on the one side by Annamessex river from its mouth to Kingston bridge, from thence by and with the county road to Black Creek Bridge, from thence by and with Black creek to Monokin river, and from thence by and with Monokin river to its mouth, shall constitute a separate and additional district . . . , to be called District number eleven, or Potato Neck District."
- 1853 Ch. 301. Additional election district, No. 12, to consist of
 "All that part of Smith's Island which is included within the limits of Somerset county.
- 1854 Ch. 312. Additional election district, No. 13, erected with the following bounds:
 "Beginning at a place on the Nanticoke river, called Bacon quarter, and running from thence by and with the county road, from said place to Levin Wright's dwelling house on said road, and from thence a due east course until it intersects the Maryland and Delaware line."
- 1856 Ch. 41. Erects additional election district, No. 14, Lawson's, out of part of the 6th or Brinkley district. Boundaries modified by next act.
- 1856 Ch. 117. Election district No. 14 defined with the following bounds:
 "Beginning at the head of Coulbourn's creek, thence by and with a private road, dividing the lands of John C. Horsey and Southey Mills, to the county road leading from Kingston to Jefferson's corner; thence by and with

the said county road to White's road; thence by and with White's road, to the district bridge, at what is called the Branch, near John Miles; thence by and with East creek to the Pocomoke, dividing the lands of Littleton Whittington and Nathaniel Tull; all that part lying South and West of the aforesaid line, and included in what was formerly called Brinkley's district, to constitute the aforesaid election district, number fourteen or Lawson's district, and all the remaining portion to constitute Brinkley's district, number six, as heretofore."

- 1858 Ch. 20. Additional election district, No. 15, established from the 4th election district with the following bounds:

"Beginning at the northeast side of the mouth of a creek commonly called Rock creek, and thence running due south, until it intersects another stream of water, commonly called Fishing creek, all that portion lying west of the aforesaid line, and included in what was formerly called Dames' Quarter District, to constitute the aforesaid Tangier District, or Election District No. 15, and all lying to the west of the said line, to constitute Dames' Quarter District, No. 4, as heretofore."

Repealed 1860 Ch. 84.

- 1860 Ch. 84. Repeals Act of 1858 Ch. 20.
 1860 Ch. 165. Resurvey of Dorchester-Somerset boundary line authorized.
 1860 Ch. 385. Accepts the Maryland-Virginia line laid down in 1688.
 1868 Ch. 24. Defines which old districts are hereafter to be in Wicomico.
 1868 Ch. 82. Names and numbers the election districts after separation of Wicomico county as follows:

"Princess Anne District, number one; Dames' Quarter District, number two; Brinkley's District, number three; Dublin District, number four; Hungry Neck District, number five; Potato Neck District, number six; Smith's Island District, number seven; Lawson's District, number eight; Tangin District, number nine.

- 1870 Ch. 326. County Commissioners authorized to change polling place in Dames' Quarter election district.
 1872 Ch. 428. Fairmount substituted for Potato Neck.
 1874 Ch. 43. Established a new 7th election district out of parts of the former 7th and 8th election districts as follows:

"all that district in said county now known as Smith's Island or election district number seven, and also all that part of said Lawson's district south of the following line, viz: Beginning at the mouth of Apes Hole Creek on Pocomoke Sound; thence by and with the channel of said Creek to Apes Hole Bridge; thence by and with the county road to Mariner's Church; thence by a straight line to the mouth of a lane running between the lands of L. Dow Lawson and William Davey near Jacksonville in said district; thence by and with said lane to the little Anna-

messex River; thence by a straight line to the mouth of Flat Cap Creek."

- 1878 Ch. 186. Divides Dames Quarter District, number 2, and annexes to it a portion of Princess Anne District, number 1.

"Commencing for the same at a point on Tangier Sound, or Monie Bay, known as Dames' Quarter District, and running thence in a southerly direction across the marsh, said marsh being the division between Dames' Quarter and Pigeon House to Monokin River, thence by and with the channel of said Monokin River to the mouth of Goose Creek, near the residence of William E. Waters, thence by and with the channel of said Goose Creek to the mouth of a ditch near the head of said creek, thence by and with said ditch to the county road near the residence of Thomas Heath, thence by a right line due north to the county road commonly known as the Black or Monie Road, thence by and with that road to the bridge crossing Great Monie Creek, known as the Waterloo Bridge, thence by and with said creek to Tangier Sound and the place of beginning. That portion of the said Dames' Quarter District west of the first line mentioned in this act—viz., the line running from a point on Tangier Sound or Monie Bay, as the case may be, to the Monokin River—is hereby annexed to Tangier District, number nine" . . .

- 1878 Ch. 214. Changes the name of Hungry Neck, or election district number 5, to Mount Vernon District, or election district No. 5.

- 1878 Ch. 45. Additional election district, No. 10, erected from 7th election district the new district to "comprise all that territory belonging to the State of Maryland on Smith's Island."

This practically repeals Acts of 1874 Ch. 43 and re-enacts Acts of 1853 Ch. 301 so far as they relate to Smith's Island.

- 1880 Ch. 146. Changes the line between Dames' Quarter District, number 2, and Princess Anne District, number 1, to run as follows:

"Commencing for the same at a point on Monie Bay, known as Dames' Quarter Creek, and running thence in a southerly direction across the marsh, said marsh being the division between Dames' Quarter and Pigeon House, to Manokin River, thence by and with the channel of said Manokin River to the mouth of Goose Creek, thence to the mouth of a ditch to the county road, near the residence of Thomas Heath, thence by the county road leading from Princess Anne, westward to John B. Wallers' store, thence northward, by the county road leading to Waterloo Bridge, thence northwesterly by and with the channel of Little Monie Creek, thence northwestwardly by and with the channel of Little Monie Creek to Monie Bay to the beginning. That portion of Dames' Quarter District as now constituted not included in the district as now consti-

tuted, is hereby annexed to Princess Anne District, number one."

- 1882 Ch. 306. Additional election district, No. 11, established out of the 2d and 9th election districts, bounded as follows:

"on the north by the head of Tangier sound and Monie Bay; on the west by a creek commonly known as Pigeon House creek, to its head; and thence by and with a ditch leading from the head of said creek to the county road, to the east of Henry Jones' residence; and thence in a straight line south to the channel of the Monokin river; thence with said channel of said river to the mouth of Fishing creek; thence north in a straight line to the mouth of a creek called Rock creek in Tangier sound."

- 1888 Ch. 218. Changes line between the Crisfield and Lawson's election districts to run as follows:

"Beginning at a ditch at Apes' Hole Creek, between the lands of John W. Coulbourn and George R. Stirling, thence running a westerly course by and with said ditch to the county road near the Methodist Protestant church, commonly called Mariner's church, thence by and with said county road to the Crisfield branch of the New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk Railroad, thence north by and with said railroad to its intersection with the present line dividing said districts, thence by and with said present line to the Annamessex river; but all other lines dividing said districts shall remain as heretofore and the belt of land between the old line and the line herein laid down is hereby annexed to Lawson's district."

- 1896 Ch. 386. Additional election district, No. 12, established out of a part of the 7th election district as follows:

"All that part of said Crisfield district, No. 7, east of the following line, viz: Beginning at the boundary of the town of Crisfield set up at Hammock's Point; thence by and with the line of said town in a straight line to the boundary of said town set up near the residence of Henry F. Jewett; thence in a straight line by and with said town line to the Rayfield road, where the line of said town of Crisfield crosses said road; thence by and with said Rayfield road to the east end thereof; thence a straight line due east to Apa's Hole Creek."

- 1898 Ch. 160. Additional election district, No. 13, erected out of parts of the 6th, 1st, 3d, and 13th election districts bounded as follows:

"Beginning at the center of Back Creek in Somerset county, opposite Captain Alexander W. Bozman's house; thence to the shore of said creek; thence, excluding said house, by and with said Bozman's private road to the main county road running from Fairmount to Westover, thence by and with said road running east to the intersection of

said road with the new road; thence by and with said new road to the county bridge spanning the Annapessex river, near the Scarborough property; thence across said bridge and by and with the road crossing the same to the intersection thereof with the old county road leading from Kingston to Marion, on the Annapessex side; thence by and with the said county road eastwardly to the place known as Kingston's Corner or Carroll's Corner, near the site of the M. E. Church; thence eastwardly by the county road to Pocomoke City to a place known as Bogg's Corner; thence northeastwardly by the county road leading by Robert W. Adam's steam saw mill to Green Hill; thence by the said county road to Dublin Station, on the N. Y., P. and N. R. R.; thence by and with said railroad to the centre of the bridge over King's creek; thence by and with the centre of King's creek, and down the same to the Manokin river; thence down the centre of said river to Back Creek, and thence up the centre of Back Creek to the place of beginning at the bridge crossing said creek near the said Thomas J. Furniss' property."

- 1898 Ch. 469. Changes line between Brinkley's election district No. 3 and Lawson's No. 7 to run as follows:

"Beginning at the mouth of Colbourne's creek and running up said creek with the channel until the county wharf is reached, at what is commonly called the "Steamboat Wharf" thence said line to run by and with the county road to Marion station; thence continuing with the road leading to "Tull's Corner," running by and with said road until the bridge commonly called the "Branch Bridge" is reached; thence by and with said creek or stream, crossed by said bridge, known as East creek to its mouth in the Pocomoke sound."

- 1902 Ch. 23. Changes line between election districts 13 and 3 to run as follows:

"Beginning with the county bridge, spanning the Annapessex river, near the Scarborough property; thence by and with the Annapessex river in an easterly direction to the old Annapessex river bridge near the residence of the late George R. Dennis; thence in a southwardly direction by and with the main county road to Carroll's Corner, near the site of the old Kingston M. E. Church; thence eastwardly by and with and following the present line between said Brinkley's and Westover districts to Bogg's Corner; thence northeastwardly by the county road leading to R. W. Adam's old steam mill site, to the present line between Westover and Dublin districts at or near said steam mill site.

- 1902 Ch. 30. Changes line between election district No. 3 and No. 8 to run as follows:

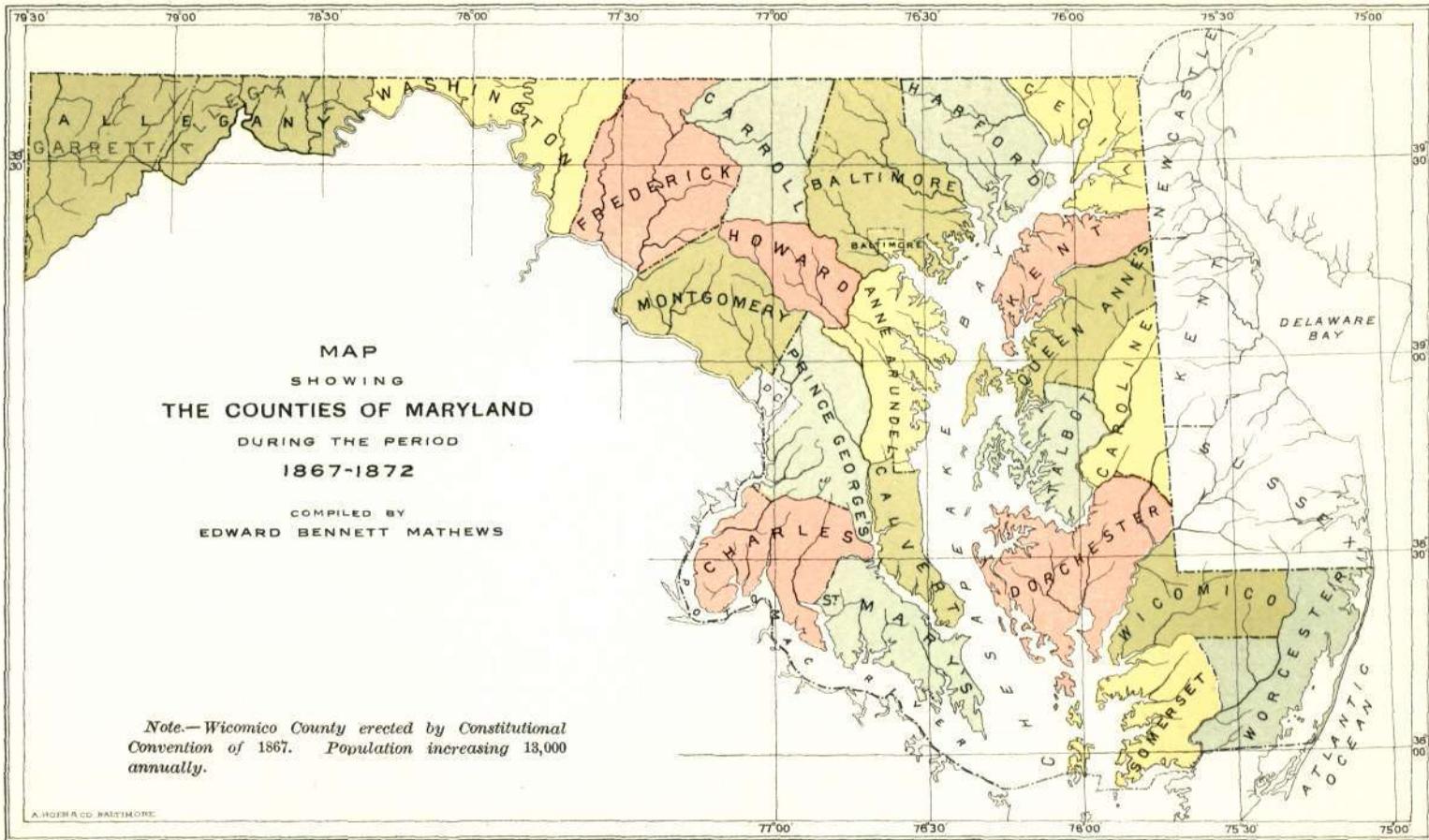
" Beginning at the mouth of Colbourn's creek, and running up said creek by and with the channel to the head thereof near the residence of Aden Davis; thence in a straight line to a lane, known as the Chapel lane; thence by and with said lane in an eastwardly direction, to the Crisfield branch of the New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk Railroad; thence by and with said railroad in a northwardly direction to a point where the county road leading from the "Steamboat Wharf" to Marion station crosses said railroad at said Marion station; thence in an eastwardly direction by and with the county road leading from said railroad crossing to Tull's corner until the bridge, commonly called "The Branch Bridge," is reached; thence by and with the creek or stream crossed by said bridge, known as "East Creek," to its mouth in the "Pocomoke Sound."

1904 Ch. 74. Additional election district 14th, created out of part of the 9th election district so as to

"embrace, comprise and include in said Deal's Island District No. 14 all that part or all those parts of Tangier District No. 9 as heretofore established, commonly known or called Deal's Island and Little Deal's Island in said county."

1904 Ch. 161. Princess Anne or 1st election district divided into two new election districts, 1st and 15th.

"to embrace, comprise and include all that territory known as Precinct No. 1, that is to say, all that part of Princess Anne Election District No. 1 lying and being situate west of that certain line beginning where the line of the Crisfield branch of the New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk Railroad crosses the southern extremity of said Princess Anne Election District No. 1, thence running in a northerly direction by and with said railroad to the point where the old county road, at or near the southern extremity of Main street in the town of Princess Anne, intersects said railroad, thence by and with said Main street through said town of Princess Anne and by and with the county road extension of said main street to the point where said county road first crosses said railroad near the residence of George T. McClemmy, thence by and with said railroad through the remainder and to the northern extremity of said district; and the other of said new districts hereby established, to be called and known as East Princess Anne Election District No. 15, and to embrace, comprise and include all that part of said Princess Anne Election District No. 1 which is now known and called Precinct No. 2 of said Princess Anne Election District No. 1, and lying and being situate to the eastward of the aforesaid divisional line."



MAP
 SHOWING
THE COUNTIES OF MARYLAND
 DURING THE PERIOD
1867-1872

COMPILED BY
EDWARD BENNETT MATHEWS

Note.—Wicomico County erected by Constitutional Convention of 1867. Population increasing 13,000 annually.

A. HIGGINSON, BALTIMORE.

MARYLAND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

VOLUME VI, PLATE I.

TALBOT COUNTY.

The first settlement of whites on the eastern shore of the Bay was near Stevensville on Kent Island where the inhabitants were relatively free from sudden attacks of the Indians. For nearly two decades after the settlement on the island no attempts at gaining a foothold on the mainland are on record, although it is probable that when the Marylanders reduced Kent Island in 1647 some of the former inhabitants moved across the straits to the adjoining shore. On July 5, 1652, by a treaty the Susquehanna Indians granted to the whites the right of settlement along both sides of the Bay from the head of it to the Patuxent on the western shore and the Choptank on the eastern. The prospect of relative security seems to have stimulated migration landward along the shores of the Choptank, Chester, and intervening estuaries. In 1658 land was taken up on the Chester River and by 1665 grants are found recorded of land as high as Southeast Creek lying about five miles below Chestertown.

The growth of population on the mainland was met by the erection of Talbot County about 1661, the exact date is unknown as the order for its creation has not been found. The earliest record referring to the county is that of February 18, 1661-2, when the Council records the order "that Moises Stagwell be Sherriffe of Talbott County till the County Co^{rt} can meete to p^{re}sent other persons to the Gouvernor & Councell." This would indicate that the county had just been erected and that the date assigned should be 1661-2 rather than 1660-1, as suggested by McMahan and others who have perhaps overlooked the differences in style of calendars. Nothing is known of the limits of the territory which was intended to be included within the new county, although it was limited on the Choptank River when Dorchester County was erected in 1668-9. The first suggestion of its western limits are found in the proclamations of the Governor appointing landing places for vessels during the years 1667 to 1669. From these it would appear that the northwestern boundary of Talbot passed along the eastern shore of the Front Wye River northward to the head of Harris Mill Branch and thence down Tanyard Branch and possibly up Langford's Bay toward Wharton Creek on the Bay shore. To the west of this line would be

Kent County with its County Court held on Kent Island until 1686, when it moved to New Yarmouth on Grays Inn Creek. On the east would be Talbot County to the eastern limits of the province, at this time nominally extending to the Delaware Bay, although the representatives of the Duke of York were just beginning to grant patents for its lands. On the north the boundary of Talbot County with respect to Baltimore County was obscure. The latter apparently included Sassafras River and early land records and ferry-rights would seem to indicate that the boundary line lay somewhere along the divide between the Sassafras and Chester rivers. What are now the first and second districts of Kent County may possibly have been an unsettled portion of Talbot in 1667, but it seems more probable that Talbot County did not exercise jurisdiction on the north side of the Chester River. On the 4th of June, 1671, according to the Kent County records³⁴ by proclamation it was ordered

“that for the future the northeast side of Chester, as far as the bounds of Talbot County were formerly on that side, shall now be added to Kent County”

and it was also decreed that Poplar's Island, which had already been given to Kent County on September 24, 1657, should become a part of Kent County. From the terms of this proclamation it would appear that the territory had formerly been in Talbot County.

Twenty years later, on the 31st of May, 1692, the inhabitants of Kent Island petitioned, asking that this historic spot, the first settled in Maryland, might again become an independent county and not, as it then was, an appendage to the more rapidly growing settlement on the mainland. At the same time (June 8, 1692) the inhabitants living on the north side of the Chester River petitioned that if Kent Island be separated into a distinct county there might be a reasonable number of inhabitants added from the settlements on the south side of the Sassafras River. The latter petitioned also that this might be done as it was quite a hardship to them to be compelled to transact their county business on the western side of the Bay at the Baltimore County Court, which at that time was held at old Baltimore on the Bush River.

³⁴Liber A, p. 54, quoted in Hansen, *Old Kent*, p. 221.

At the December session of the Legislature of 1704 petitions were presented in the General Assembly from the inhabitants of Kent and Talbot counties. No action was taken beyond referring the question to the next General Assembly. This petition, however, resulted in the enactment of Chapter 3 of the Laws of 1706, which was approved April 18, 1706. The Act ran as follows:

"An Act for the dividing and regulating several counties on the eastern shore of this province, and constituting a county, by the name of Queen Anne's County, within the same province."

From and after the 1st of May, 1707 the bounds of Talbot County shall contain Sharp's Island, Choptank Island, and all the land of the north side of Great Choptank River, and extend itself up the said river to Tuckahoe bridge, and from thence with a straight line to the mill commonly called and known by the name of Swetman's mill, and from thence down the south side of Wye river to the mouth thereof, and from thence down the bay (including Poplar Island) to the first beginning, also Bruff's Island, in Wye river."

By this Act the obscurity regarding the boundary line between Talbot and Kent was finally removed since the territory lying on either side of it was used to constitute Queen Anne's County. One may recognize a portion of the early boundary in that lying along the east bank of the Front Wye River but beyond that nothing appears to indicate the location of the limits intended by the proclamation of 1671. The act really takes the entire territory between the Sassafras on the north and the Choptank on the south and divides the same into three counties well defined by natural boundaries with the exception of the short line which runs from Wye Mills to Hillsboro, separating Queen Anne's and Talbot counties. At least it is assumed that this arbitrary line is the one represented by the clause in the above line wherein Swetman's mill is placed at Wye Mills and Tuckahoe Bridge at Hillsboro. This is contrary to some of the early maps while early records show that a settlement was made by Mr. Sweetman about this time on the banks of Corsica Creek, where the old mill may possibly have been. According to the modern maps and modern usage Tuckahoe Bridge is situated not at Hillsboro, but near the mouth of Tuckahoe Creek. It is therefore possible that the original line was run from near the mouth of Tuckahoe

Creek to the vicinity of Corsica Creek on the Chester River, but this seems hardly probable. Moreover, there is no subsequent law extant which defines the boundary as it is to-day, and thus it is probable that the present line is the same as that of the law of 1706. Talbot County is one of the oldest counties on the Eastern Shore. Since the county was erected almost as soon as any settlement began it never has been under the practical jurisdiction of any other county. With the exception of the early enactments by the Provincial Council and Assembly all laws now extant, as well as all land and probate records, should be on file at Easton. The County Court of Talbot County was originally on the Wye River but subsequently it was moved to Easton.

TALBOT COUNTY ELECTION DISTRICTS.

- 1798 Ch. 115. County divided into 4 election districts.
 1799 Ch. 48. Confirms Act of 1798 Ch. 115.
 1799 Ch. 50. Commission appointed to divide county into 4 election districts.
 1852 Ch. 258. Erects new election district (No. 5) out of 2d election district the line to be as follows:
 "Beginning at the mouth of Harris' creek and running with said creek to the head thereof, thence with the division line between the lands of James Dawson and William Lowe, thence with said line until it intersects the division line between the lands of William Hambleton and said Lowe, thence with said line, until it reaches the head of a cove or creek, called Emerson's creek, and with said creek until it reaches Miles' river, and thence with the river and bay, including Tilghman's, Poplar, and Sharps' Island to the mouth of said Harris' creek."
 1876 Ch. 154. County Commissioners authorized to divide election districts into election precincts.
 1892 Ch. 572. Changes boundary line between 3d and 1st election districts to be as follows:
 "Beginning at the mouth of Trippe's Creek and running up Trippe's Creek and the north branch thereof, thence with said north branch of Trippe's Creek to a point at or near the residence of Mrs. James P. Hambleton, known as Waterloo, from thence, nearly east with the road leading from the said Mrs. Hambleton's residence to a point on the public road from Hambleton to Dover Bridge, at or near Iveytown colored church, thence with said road until it intersects the present dividing line between Easton and Trappe districts, then following the line as now laid to to the Choptank river."

WASHINGTON COUNTY.

Washington County was erected out of the western portion of Frederick County by the Constitutional Convention of 1776, which decided that Frederick County was then so large that it should be divided into three parts by the erection of two new counties, Montgomery and Washington. The limits laid down at the time for Washington County were as follows:

“Beginning at a place where the temporary line crosses the south mountain and running thence by a line on the ridge of said mountain to the river Potomac, and thence with the lines of the said county so as to include all the lands to the westward of the line running on the ridge of the south mountain as aforesaid to the beginning, shall be and is hereby erected into a new county by the name of Washington county.”

The settlements of Washington County were made much later than were those in the counties in the tide-water portions of the State, the delay being due to three factors. The presence of the Blue Ridge at its eastern limits with only the gap at the Potomac River served for a long time as the limit of enterprise and exploration. The territory, therefore, with its fertile limestone valleys and picturesque situation was practically unknown and offered in its wildness and isolation little inducement to the early settlers who found abundance of land on the eastern side of the Blue Ridge. Still another factor appears to have been the fear of stirring up the Indians, whose treaties with the whites forbade the settlement of Europeans to the west of the Blue Ridge mountains.

The dying down of South Mountain in Pennsylvania left an easy passage along the fertile plains of the limestone valley for progressive settlement and the running of the “temporary line” between Maryland and Pennsylvania stimulated settlement on the western side of the Blue Ridge so that before the outbreak of the Revolutionary War there were thriving centers of colonization about Hagerstown, Sharpsburg, and Williamsport. At the time of the termination of the treaty with the Indians Fort Frederick was established on the western side of the valley and the security which it brought, together with the highway from

Pennsylvania to Virginia which crossed the Potomac at Williamsport, stimulated the settlement of the territory.

The "temporary line" referred to in the founding of Washington County was a boundary of great importance to the inhabitants of northern Maryland as is evidenced by its use in defining Washington County eight years after the permanent Mason and Dixon line had been accepted. The "temporary line" was run *ex parte* by a group of Pennsylvania commissioners and surveyors who had started with the Maryland representatives to run a line which should serve as a boundary between Maryland and Pennsylvania until their contending proprietors should come to some agreement resulting in a permanent boundary. This temporary line on the east side of the Susquehanna River was about a quarter of a mile south of the present boundary and west of the Susquehanna River an equal distance north of the present boundary. The original surveyors only ran the line to the top of South Mountain, the eastern limit of Washington County, and the westward extension of the line had been accepted by mutual consent. Thus it will appear that at the time Washington County was laid off its northern boundary was defined according to an unofficial, probably rather vaguely located, line when there really existed the recently surveyed and well-marked Mason and Dixon line which had been accepted by the respective proprietors of Pennsylvania and Maryland and approved by the Lord High Chancellor of England. One wonders whether the rather curious wording of the boundaries arose from ignorance, or patriotism which would disregard the acts of the English courts, or from a latent hope in the minds of the Marylanders that if they were successful in establishing a new confederation they might wrest this narrow strip and add it to the Maryland domain.

The original boundaries of the county remained in force but a few years. The success of the Revolutionary War and the issuing of the Revolutionary Grants for land in western Maryland, the prospective opening of the west and the increased security felt in that quarter stimulated settlement in the vicinity of Fort Cumberland where the distance from the County Court imposed a serious hardship on the new settlers. The new conditions led in 1789 to the crection of Allegany County out

of all that portion of Washington County lying west of Sideling Hill Creek. In this way the boundaries of Washington County were finally fixed as they are found to-day.

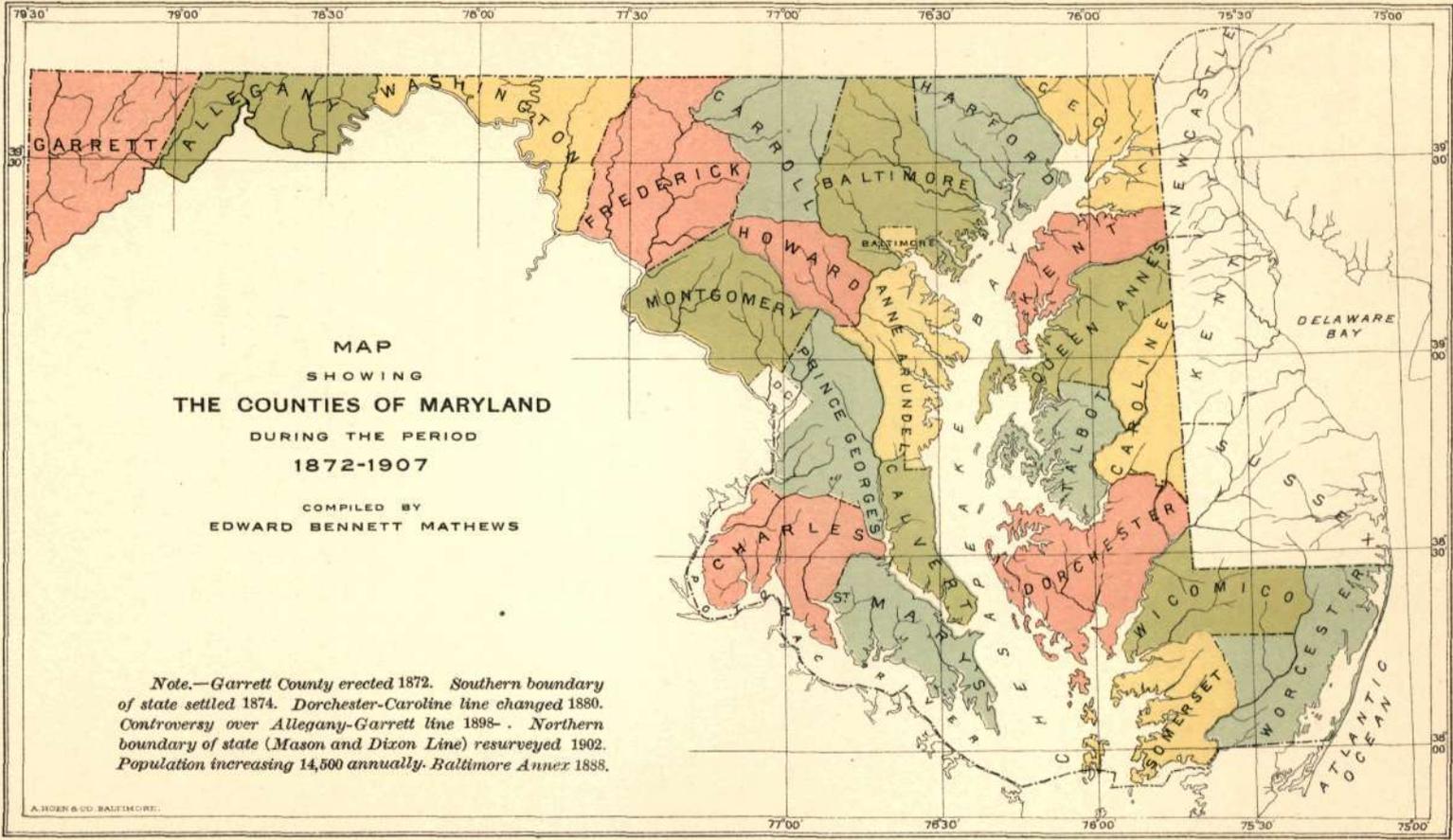
WASHINGTON COUNTY ELECTION DISTRICTS.

- 1798 Ch. 115. Divides county into 5 election districts.
 1799 Ch. 48. Confirms Acts of 1798 Ch. 115.
 1799 Ch. 50. Commissioners appointed to divide county into 5 election districts.
 1800 Ch. 59. Line between 4th and 5th election districts closed and completed by a line due north from the head of the head of the Green Spring Furnace Run to Pennsylvania.
 1801 Ch. 59. Commission appointed to change lines and report to County Clerk.
 1802 Ch. 66. Repealed by 1805 Ch. 97.
 1816 Ch. 37. Polling place of 5th election district changed to Hancock.
 1819 Ch. 188. County divided into 6 election districts and Boonsborough is new place of election, 2d district elections at Williamsport [not confirmed?]
 1820 Ch. 85. County divided into 7 districts, the new voting places being Boonsborough and Cave Town, No. 2, to be at Williamsport.
 1821 Ch. 29. Confirms Acts of 1820 Ch. 85.
 1821 Ch. 70. Levy Court directed to appoint committee to select election places and lay out election districts, 1st Sharpsburg, 2 Williamsport, 3 Hagerstown, 4 Clear Spring, 5 Hancock, 6 Boonsborough, 7 Cavetown. Report to County Court by July 1822.
 1823 Ch. 100. Polling place of 3d election district to be in any house in Hagerstown provided consent of owner or tenant is obtained but not in court house.
 1832 Ch. 92. Line between election districts 1 and 6 changed. (Repealed 1835 Ch. 225.)
 1833 Ch. 30. Confirms Acts of 1832 Ch. 92. (Repealed 1835 Ch. 225.)
 1834 Ch. 114. Erects 9th election district out of parts of 3d and 7th districts.
 1834 Ch. 166. Parts of 2d and 3d election districts annexed to 4th election district.

“beginning at a point where the division line between Andrew Summer and John Witmer crosses the Conococheague Creek, thence, with a straight line, to the division line between Samuel and David Gruber, and John S. Miller, thence with that division line to the Hagerstown and Conococheague Turnpike Road, thence with a straight line to and with the division line between Henry Harsh and

George Harsh, thence to and with the division line between George Harsh and George Houer, from thence with a straight line to the Conococheague Creek and thence with said creek to the place of beginning."

- 1834 Ch. 176. Makes acts of Commission of 1833 Ch. 30 effectual.
- 1834 Ch. 235. Part of 2d election district annexed to 3d election district as follows:
 "Beginning on the Hagerstown and Conococheague Turnpike Road, where the road to George Sprecher's Mill leaves the said turnpike road, running thence to the mouth of Jacob Bovey's Lane, thence to and with the division line between Jacob Bovey and John Baer, thence to and with the division line between Jacob Bovey, Isaac Bear, and Philip Sprecher and Martin Beer, to the Williamsport road, thence with said turnpike road to the place of beginning."
- 1835 Ch. 17. Confirms Acts of 1834 Ch. 166.
- 1835 Ch. 225. Repeals Acts of 1832 Ch. 92 and 1833 Ch. 30.
- 1836 Ch. 148. Commission appointed to lay out additional election district from 3d and 7th subject to confirmation.
- 1837 Ch. 210. Confirms Acts of 1836 Ch. 148.
- 1837 Ch. 185. Line between 1st and 6th election districts changed by putting part of 6th in 1st.
 "Commencing at Peter Showmans schoolhouse; running thence with the road to Wm. Lewis blacksmith shop and thence with said road to the division line of said election district.
- 1837 Ch. 186. Judges authorized to locate polling places.
- 1840 Ch. 160. Changes line between election districts 6 and 7.
 "Beginning at the hand-board near Jacob Shaveley's where the Cavetown and Boonsboro' road crosses the Ohr's Gap road, and running northward with the said Cavetown road to where the Blue Rock Run crosses the same, then with said run to its source, and from thence with a due east line to the Frederick county line.
- 1840 Ch. 257. Refers to possible cession by Congress of part of District of Columbia.
- 1840 Ch. 264. Changes line between election districts 3 and 9.
 "Beginning at the Pennsylvania line, where the Waynesborough road crosses the same, and running with said road to the Paradise School House and from thence with the public road to Frederick Zeigler's mill, and from thence with a straight line to the end of Peter Spessard's lane on the road leading from the Forge Mill to Hagerstown, and thence with said road to the fording at the Forge Mill where it intersects the original location of said ninth district."



MAP
SHOWING
THE COUNTIES OF MARYLAND
DURING THE PERIOD
1872-1907
COMPILED BY
EDWARD BENNETT MATHEWS

Note.—Garrett County erected 1872. Southern boundary of state settled 1874. Dorchester-Caroline line changed 1880. Controversy over Allegany-Garrett line 1898-. Northern boundary of state (Mason and Dixon Line) resurveyed 1902. Population increasing 14,500 annually. Baltimore Annex 1888.

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- 1847 Ch. 164. Commission appointed to lay out, from parts of election districts 3 and 4, Cunningham district No. 10.
- 1849 Ch. 401. County Commissioners authorized to divide election district No. 3 into two wards or to erect the Funkstown or 10th district.
- 1852 Ch. 61. Commission appointed to form Sandy Hook election district out of 1 and 8.
- 1852 Ch. 126. Amends preceding by modification of commission.
- 1852 Ch. 223. Erects additional election district out of parts of Sharpsburg, Williamsport, and Boonsboro' districts contiguous to each other, commencing for the boundaries of said district, at the college of St. James, then to the mouth of a lane, on the Hagerstown and Sharpsburg road, one mile north of Jones' cross roads, thence east with the division line of district number six and ten, to the Antietam creek, thence with said creek, to a bridge crossed by a road leading from Keedysville to Bakersville, thence with said road to the schoolhouse in Smoketown, thence with the road via John Poffenberger's, to Dorenberger's warehouse, thence with the Potomac river two miles, thence with a straight line to a house on the Williamsport and Sharpsburg road, one-fourth of a mile west of Mount Moriah school house, thence with a straight line to the place of beginning."
- 1854 Ch. 206. Additional election district erected out of part of the 5th election district.
"Beginning at the mouth of a run emptying into the Potomac river, in election district number five, known as Doctor Jacque's saw mill run, thence to the Pennsylvania line, near a new bridge across Licking creek, in Pennsylvania, thence east along the Pennsylvania line, to the top of a mountain commonly called Blair's valley mountain, and with the top of said mountain to the turnpike at Fairview, thence with the turnpike to William Kline's, thence with the top of the stone quarry ridge to the Potomac, on the lands of Tobias Johnson, thence to the Potomac river, thence along the bed of said river to the place of beginning."
- 1856 Ch. 326. Changes polling place of the 7th election district to Smithsburg.
- 1858 Ch. 47. Erects Cunningham Cross Roads (13th) election district out of parts of the 3d and 4th districts.
- 1860 Ch. 87. Confirms division of county into 13 election districts and authorizes commissioners to erect new ones as necessary.

WICOMICO COUNTY.

Wicomico County, next to the youngest in the State, is one of the four erected by state conventions, the others being Washington, Montgomery, and Howard. In the constitution of the State adopted in 1867 was a section as follows: (Art. 13, section 2)

“ Beginning at the point where Mason and Dixon’s line crosses the channel of Pocomoke River, hence following said line to the channel of the Nanticoke River, thence with the channel of said river to Tangier Sound, or the intersection of Nanticoke and Wicomico Rivers, thence up the channel of the Wicomico River to the mouth of Wicomico Creek, thence with the channel of said creek and Passerdyke Creek to Dashiield’s or Disharoon’s Mills, thence with the millpond of said mills and branch following the middle prong of said branch, to Meadow Bridge, on the road, dividing the Counties of Somerset and Worcester, near the southwest corner of farm of William P. Morris, thence due east to the Pocomoke river, thence with the channel of said river to the beginning. . . . then said parts of Worcester and Somerset Counties shall become and constitute a new County, to be called Wicomico County; and Salisbury shall be the County seat ”

No changes have occurred in the limits of the county. It is, however, of interest to trace the different jurisdictions under which the inhabitants of Wicomico County have been placed in the years since its settlement. In the early days of the Province there were no settlements known prior to the seventh decade of the seventeenth century. Soon after the establishment of Somerset County in 1666 settlements gradually extended up the Nanticoke River and on the shores of the Wicomico. As early as 1684 there were enough settlers in the region between Marshyhope Creek and the main branch of the Nanticoke to occasion controversy between Somerset and Dorchester counties which was settled by an order of Council on October 4, 1684, when it was decided that the main branch of the Nanticoke, and consequently the northern boundary of Somerset County, was the northeastern branch of the river. Subsequent to 1742, when the present Worcester County was erected, that portion of Wicomico County lying west of the railroad from Princess Anne to Delmar was the only part within Somerset County. Prior to that time whatever settlements had been made to the eastward were also in Somerset County and records dealing with land transfers, probate courts, etc., should be looked for in Princess Anne, although transcripts of the majority of the important papers have been made for record in

Salisbury. Records between 1742 and 1867 should be on file at Snow Hill, the county-town of Worcester County.

WICOMICO COUNTY ELECTION DISTRICTS.

Prior to 1867 included in Somerset and Worcester counties.

See Acts of 1798 Ch. 115; 1799 Ch. 48, 50; 1824 Ch. 146; 1825 Ch. 27; 1837 Ch. 356; 1838 Ch. 12; 1841 Ch. 36; 1847 Ch. 246; [1852 Ch. 24; 1853 Ch. 301; 1854 Ch. 312]; 1860 Ch. 165.

1868 Ch. 24. Defines the limits of several election districts.

“District number one, or Barren Creek, shall be and remain as it is now defined by law; district number two, or Quantico, shall be and remain as it is now defined and limited by law; district number three, or Tyaskin, shall also be and remain as it is now bounded by law; district number four, or Pittsburg, shall embrace all that part of the district formerly called Cross Roads, embraced and included within the following limits: beginning; and Pittsburg, formerly Cross Roads, shall be the line of the State of Delaware, thence running by and with said channel to bridge called Givan’s bridge, thence with a road to a place called St. James’ Chapel, thence with a line drawn due west to the line of Parsons’ or Nutters’ district, at the head of Nassawango creek, thence by and with the line of Parsons’ district to the line of the State of Delaware, thence by and with said line to the beginning where the channel of the Pocomoke river crosses the place of voting for said district. Number five or Parsons’ district, shall be and remain as now defined by law. Number six, or Dennis’ district, shall embrace all the territory south of Pittsburg district to the line of Worcester and Wicomico counties, and all east of the main branch of the Nassawango creek, and Powellsville shall be the place of holding the elections in said district. District number seven, or Trappe, shall be and remain as now fixed by law, except that part which was taken off by the dividing line of Wicomico from Somerset county and the Trappe, shall be and remain the place of holding the elections. District number eight, or Nutters’, shall be and remain as now fixed by law, except that part taken off by the new county line, and that part which was formerly Coulborn’s district on the west side of Nassawango creek, which is by this Act embraced within the limits of Nutters’ district. Number nine, or Saulsbury district, shall be and remain as now fixed by law. District number ten, or Sharpstown, shall be and remain as now defined by law.

That the Surveyor of Wicomico shall . . . proceed to lay off and survey the boundary line dividing the districts of Pittsburg and Dennis, beginning at Given's bridge, on the Pocomoke river, thence running by and with the road leading to Saint James' Chapel to said point called Saint James' Chapel, thence a due west line to the line of Parsons' district. And for a division or line between Dennis' district and Nutters' the main branch of the Nassawango creek shall be the boundary."

1874 Ch. 261. Polling place of the 7th district changed to Walnut tree lot.

1896 Ch. 451. Line between election districts 5 and 4 changed to run as follows:

"Beginning on the northeasterly side of the county road leading from Forest Grove to Parsonsburgh at a point in the curve of the said road opposite Public School No. 8 and about 100 feet therefrom; thence running north fifty degrees and thirty minutes east, 434 feet to the centre of the county road leading from Salisbury to Parsonsburg; thence with a street called Pine street so far as it runs, north four degrees, west 1,700 feet to the intersection of the county road known as the Parker road with the county road known as the new county road, by the residence of George W. Farlow."

1898 Ch. 74. Erects additional election district to be known as the 11th election district and to have the following boundaries:

"Beginning at the intersection of the county road leading from Salisbury to Mardella Springs and the county road leading from said road easterly over the Ruark, or Nailor Mill dam, thence by and with said Ruark or Nailor road to the dam aforesaid; thence up the Ruark or Nailor Mill pond and branch to the mill dam of George W. Leonard of B, and county road leading from Salisbury to Laurel, Delaware; thence by and with said county road to the Delaware line; thence by and with the Delaware line to Spring Hill lane; thence by and with Spring Hill lane and the county road leading from Salisbury to Mardella Springs to the beginning."

1900 Ch. 426. Erects additional district to be known as the 12th election district and to have the following boundaries:

"Beginning at Shile's Creek at a stone boundary between the lands of J. W. T. Robertson and Jefferson Hughs to Trinity M. E. Church; thence with the centre of said road leading to Tyaskin postoffice to a point where it intersects with a private road leading from said road to the Nanticoke River, about one hundred yards east of the colored school-house; thence with said private road by the house of Henry Jones (colored) and James P. Insleys and E. H. Williams to the Nanticoke River; thence with said Nanticoke River to its confluence with the Wicomico

River; thence with the Wicomico River to the first beginning at the boundaries mentioned herein except the river shall be the new boundaries of the third Tyaskin Election District."

- 1904 Ch. 133. Erects additional election district to be known as the 13th election district and to have the following boundaries:

"Beginning at the southeast end of the cap-sill of the flood-gates of Humphreys Mill Pond, in Salisbury and thence east by and with Humphreys Mill Pond to a point on the south side thereof in a straight line with the east line of the farm devised by Humphrey Humphreys to Dr. Eugene W. Humphreys, thence to said line and with the same to the Schumacker road, thence extended in a straight line to the Snow Hill road, thence in a straight line to a point on the north side of the road leading from Tony Tank to the Snow Hill road, and distant three hundred yards from its intersection with the road from Salisbury to Fook's Mills, thence by and with the north side of Tony Tank and Snow Hill road westward to its intersection with the road leading from Salisbury to Fook's Mills, thence by and with said road to the north side of the flumeway of Fook's Grist Mill, thence westward by and with Clear Run branch and Tony Tank Mill Pond and creek to the intersection of the said creek with the Wicomico river, thence by and with the channel of the Wicomico river to the south branch thereof, and by and with the south branch thereof to the place of beginning."

- 1906 Ch. 190. Erects additional election district to be known as the 14th election district out of the 4th election district, and to have the following boundaries.

"Commencing at the Delaware and Maryland line at a point on the county road leading from Bethel Church to Whitesville, Delaware, about two hundred yards west of the residence where Enoch Truitt now resides; by and with the centre of said county road to intersect county road leading from Cobb's Hill to James H. West road at or near Quackinson School House; by and with the centre of said road to intersect the county road known as the Radcliff Farlow road; by and with the center of said county road to old Burnt Mill known also as New Mill; thence a direct line across the lands of William H. Truitt, Washington R. Dennis, William H. Carey and others to the old Rider Adkins mill dam; by and with the center of the branch to Dennis' Election District line in Wicomico county from Worcester county, and thence north by and with said line to the dividing line between Maryland and Delaware, and thence by and with that line west to the beginning."

WORCESTER COUNTY.

Worcester County, as it was known forty years ago, was erected in 1742 by an Act of Assembly, but more than half a century before that there was a Worcester County erected by order of the Lord Proprietary and even this Act was but the amplification of previous instructions to erect an unnamed county where Worcester now is.

On the 22d of October, 1669, the Council of Maryland, following out instructions received from his Lordship bearing the date of July 28, 1669, ordered

“that from the Hore kill to Mount Scarborough be erected into a County & called as the Lord Proprietary shall hereafter direct” (Md. Arch., 5: 57).

The limits of the county as here named are the Hore kill or Lewes Creek near Lewes, Delaware and Mount Scarborough which, according to Herrman's map of 1670, lay south of Snow Hill, probably near the present town of Scarboro. The total elevation above sea-level in this region is usually below forty feet so that it is hard to find any place which might be designated as a “Mount.”

His Lordship's instructions at the same time called for the erection of a county, named Durham, which was to extend north of Worcester County along the Delaware from the Whorekill to the 40th degree of North Latitude.

On the 19th of June, in the year 1672, the Proprietary Lord Baltimore through his Governor erected a Worcester County which included practically all of the territory under dispute between himself and the Duke of York (the same having not yet been granted to William Penn). The proclamation runs as follows:

“Beginning at the Southermost Branch of a Bay now called Rehoboth Bay and from thence running Northerly up the Sea Board side to the South Cape of Deleware Bay and thence to the Whore keil Creeke and up the Bay to the fortieth degree Northerly Latitude into a County and do hereby erect the same into a County and it is our will and Pleasure that it shall be a County and called by the name of worcester County in our said Province of Maryland.”

According to these limits the Worcester County of 1672 included not only the unnamed county of 1669 but Durham County as well, the lim-

its given conforming more closely with Durham County than with the unnamed since the southern limit in the one case extended to the vicinity of the Calvert-Scarborough line, marking the southern boundary of Maryland but in the later instance only to the south shore of Rehoboth Bay, a little north of the transpeninsular line between Delaware and Maryland.

All of the territory included within these old temporary counties was included within the limits of the original Maryland charter granted in 1632, according to any reasonable and unprejudiced interpretation of the supposed limiting clause *haectenens inclusa* found in the preamble of the charter, King Charles I, the grantor, Lord Baltimore, the applicant, and the Duke of York, the subsequent disputant, can all be shown by documentary evidence to have held that any settlements of the Dutch along the Delaware were of no account and should not be respected as granting control away from the English Crown. This view of the English was enforced against the Dutch in 1663-4, when New Amsterdam and the Dutch settlements along the Delaware were captured. When, however, Charles II granted all the territory east of the Delaware River to his brother James, then the Duke of York and Albany, the latter became interested in the settlements upon the western shore and acted on, without actually asserting, the principle laid down by the Dutch ambassadors to Maryland in 1659, viz., that all of this territory had been excluded from the Maryland grant out of regard to the Dutch settlements by the clause in the preamble above cited. Acting on this principle led to assumption of authority and practical occupation by the Duke of York and his representatives, and the land was even granted to William Penn. When the question of ownership arose between the latter and Charles, Lord Baltimore, it was referred to the Privy Council, who were by the circumstances more or less obliged to confirm the title previously assumed by the Duke of York, who had in the meantime become the King, James II. By the decision of 1685 the territory of old Worcester County was decreed to belong to the King and thus it ceased to be a portion of Lord Baltimore's government of Maryland.

The Legislature of 1742 passed an Act (Acts of Assembly 1742,

Chapter 19) upon the petition of certain inhabitants of Somerset County which resulted in the erection of a new county out of the eastern part of Somerset County and called the same Worcester. The line of division through Somerset County forming the western boundary of Worcester County ran, according to the law, as follows:

“ up the Westernmost Side of the said [Dividing Creek] and to the Bridges called Denstone's Bridges [on the road from Snow Hill to Princess Anne], and from thence West to the main road called Parahawkin-Road; thence up and with the said road to John Caldwell, senior's, saw-mill [Salisbury?] thence up and with the said road over Cox's Branch, to Broad Creek Bridge [at Laurel, Delaware].”

The enforcement of the order of 1685 taking from him the Delaware portion of his grant had been strenuously resisted by Charles, Third Lord Baltimore, and his successors, although his grandson made an agreement in 1732 conformable to the original order of the Privy Council. This agreement on the advice of his uncle was not fulfilled by the young Lord Baltimore and the Penns had instituted a suit in Chancery for the performance of the agreement, prior to the erection of Worcester County, which was not settled until the decree of the Chancellor in 1750. By this decree the northwestern portion of the Worcester County, then but recently erected, was transferred to Delaware, under whose jurisdiction it has since remained.

No further change was made in the confines or territory of Worcester County until the State Convention of 1867, when Wicomico County was constituted out of the western portion of Worcester and the northern portion of Somerset counties. According to the second section of the 13th article in the Constitution adopted at that time, the territory granted to Wicomico lay west of a line beginning at

“Meadow Bridge, on the road, dividing the counties of Somerset and Worcester, near the southwest corner of farm of William P. Morris, thence [running] due east to the Pocomoke river, thence with the channel of said river to the beginning [at the point where Mason and Dixon's lines crosses the channel of Pocomoke River].”

WORCESTER COUNTY ELECTION DISTRICTS.

- 1798 Ch. 115. County divided into 5 election districts.
1799 Ch. 48. Confirms Acts of 1798 Ch. 115.

- 1799 Ch. 50. Commission appointed to divide county into 5 election districts.
- 1827 Ch. 50. Divides county into 7 election districts by making 4 districts out of the old 4th and 5th districts.
- 1828 Ch. 17. Confirms Acts of 1827 Ch. 50 and appoints commission.
- 1829 Ch. 190. Berlin election district divided into two districts [apparently not confirmed].
- 1834 Ch. 122. "The divisional line between the 4th and 5th election districts in Worcester County, shall run by and with the northwest side of the plantation w[h]ere Benjamin S. Melson, of Samuel, now lives, and from thence to the northwest side of the plantation where James White of Francis, now lives, until it intersects the line of Delaware, and all that part of the fifth district is now attached to the fourth district."
- 1835 Ch. 264. Authorizes the division of the 6th election district into two districts.
- 1836 Ch. 130. Confirms Acts of 1835 Ch. 264.
- 1836 Ch. 248. Levy Court authorized to select polling place for new district.
- 1837 Ch. 286. Changes polling place in Costen's and Metter's districts.
- 1837 Ch. 301. Changes polling place in Berlin district.
- 1838 Ch. 378. Changes polling place in Salisbury district.
- 1840 Ch. 151. Changes polling place of 5th election district to Mr. Fish's house in Salisbury.
- 1841 Ch. 71. Changes polling place of the 7th election district to Stephen Bounds' warehouse.
- 1843 Ch. 260. Polling place of 1st election district changed to house of Wm. Mason.
- 1843 Ch. 268. Commission appointed to lay out a new district from the 2d and 3d election districts as follows:
 "Commissioners shall commence at the mouth of the creek known as Mill Creek, following the said creek to the head waters thereof, and from thence the most proper route to the head waters of Nine-Pin Branch, and down said branch to the mouth thereof, and for the southern line thereof, commencing at the mouth of the creek leading up to John Tarpen's mill, thence the most proper route to the bridge at Porter's tan yard, thence north of the poor-house from the most proper route to the Pocomoke river. [New Ark district, apparently not confirmed, see 1845 Ch. 35.]
- 1843 Ch. 344. Polling place of 3d or Berlin election district on Zingle Lot.
- 1845 Ch. 35. Apparently the same as 1843 Ch. 268 though the latter part is differently worded.
- 1845 Ch. 144. Repeals section 9 of above calling for confirmation by next General Assembly.
- 1846 Ch. 275. New district placed in 2d commissioners district.
- 1852 Ch. 79. Erects additional election district, St. Martins or No. 10, out of Berlin or 3d election district.

"Commencing at the Surf Bank, where the line of this State and Delaware strikes the said surf bank, thence by and with said surf [bank] a south course, until the mouth of St. Martin's river bears northwest, thence a straight line to the said St. Martin's river, and thence running up the middle of said St. Martin's river to Shingle Laundry, thence to the foot of Cooxy Hill road, thence by and with said road to the Pocomoke river, thence by and with said river to the line of Delaware, thence with said line to the first beginning."

1860 Ch. 240. Polling place of the 7th election district changed to Atkinson's Mills.

1860 Ch. 385. Accepts state boundary line of 1688.

1868 Ch. 80. Boundaries of election districts.

"Costen's or Election District number one: commencing at the Pocomoke River at the mouth of Carey's Creek, thence running by and with said creek to Mason's Mills, thence by and with the County Road from Mason's Mills, to a place known by the name of the "Sheep House," and thence in a direct course by survey to the line of the State of Virginia; all of the territory west of said boundary line is included in the boundaries of the said Election District number one. For Snow Hill, Election District number two, the boundaries shall be the same as are now established by law, and shall continue to be the limits of said District. For Berlin, Election District number three, the same boundaries as are now established by law shall continue to be the limits of said District number three. For New Ark, Election District number four, the same boundaries as are now established by law shall continue to be the limits of said district number four. For St. Martin's, Election District number five, the same boundaries as are now established by law shall continue to be the limits of said District number five. For Coulbourn's, Election District number six, the same boundaries heretofore established by law, in so far as they do not conflict with the Election Districts of Wicomico County, or the territory of said County, shall be the limits of said District number six, except as such other additional territory as by this act may be included therein. For Adkinson's, Election District number seven, the same boundaries as are now established by law, in so far as they do not conflict with the Election District of Wicomico County, or the territory of said county, shall be the limits of said District number seven, except as such other additional territory as by this Act may be included therein. For Sandy Hill, Election District number eight, the following shall be the boundaries of said District, namely; all that

territory east of line in the said forty-first Section of this Act mentioned, beginning at the Pocomoke River at the mouth of Carey's Creek, and thence running by and with said creek to Mason's Mills, thence by and with the county road from Mason's Mills to a place known by the name of the "Sheep House," and from thence in a direct line by survey to the line of the State of Virginia.

That so much of the territory and boundaries of the said Election Districts of Worcester County, shall conform to the present boundaries of said Election Districts in such respects as are not altered and changed by the formation and erection of Wicomico County and the special provisions of this Act.

That all that portion of the District heretofore known as Election District number eight, or Nutter's, remaining within the limits and boundaries of Worcester County since the formation of Wicomico County, shall be included in the territory and boundaries of the District known as Adkisson's Election District number seven, except such portion of said District number eight, lying on the east side of the road leading from the furnace known as the Furnace Road, from Salisbury to Snow Hill, which shall be included in Colbourn's, Election District number six, and all the remaining portion and territory of Colbourn's, Election District No. 6, so far as the same remains within the limits of Worcester County, be and the same is hereby established by law as Colbourn's, Election District number eight."

1872 Ch. 111. Changes line between 1st and 8th election districts as follows:

"Beginning on the Pocomoke River at Cottingham Ferry, and running by and with the county road leading from said Ferry, to the county road leading from Snow Hill to Newtown, by way of Davis' Cross Road, thence by and with the county road to a place known by the name of "Sheep House," and thence in a direct course by survey to the line of the State of Virginia."

1872 Ch. 362. Divides county into 8 election districts. There are no changes in Snow Hill, No. 2; Berlin, No. 3; Newark, No. 4; Colbourne's No. 5; and Atkinson's No. 7 except as modified by the separation of Wicomico County in 1867. The bounds of the 1st and 8th election districts are changed to run as follows:

"Commencing at the Pocomoke River, at Cottingham's Ferry, and running by and with the county road leading from said ferry, to the county road leading from Snow Hill to Newtown, by way of Davis' Cross Roads; thence by and with the county road to a place by the name of the "Sheep House," and thence in a direct course by survey to the line of the State of Virginia; all of the territory

west of said boundary line is included in the boundaries of said election district, number one.

For Stockton Election District, number eight; the following shall be the boundaries of said district, namely: all the territory north and east of line in the said forty-first section of this Act mentioned, beginning on the Pocomoke River at Cottingham's Ferry, and running by and with the county road leading from said ferry, to the county road leading from Snow Hill to Newtown, by way of Davis' Cross Roads; thence by and with the county road to a place known by the name of the "Sheep House," and thence in a direct course by survey to the line to the State of Virginia."

1872 Ch. 447. Stockton substituted for Sandy Hill as the name of the 8th election district.

1876 Ch. 153. Divides 3d election district into two:

"That all that part of Worcester county known as the third election district of said county, be, and the same is hereby divided into two election districts, to be called respectively the third or East Berlin district, and the ninth or West Berlin district, and described as follows: all that part of said third election district which is east of the public road extending from the northern limit of said district through the town of Berlin, to the southern limit of said district, known as the old stage road, shall be the third election district of Worcester county, and the voting place in which, shall hereafter be in the town of Berlin; and all that part of said district, formerly known as the third election district of Worcester county, which lies west of the public road running through said district known as the old stage road, shall be the ninth election district of Worcester county, the voting place in which, shall be the town of Berlin."

1882 Ch. 377. Changes the line between the 6th and 7th election districts as follows:

"Beginning at the northwest corner of the second election district, thence running with the western line of the second district to Nassawanga creek, thence with the county road, known as the "Salisbury road," to the line of Wicomico county."

1884 Ch. 344. Changes the line between the 6th and 7th election districts to run as follows:

"Beginning at Nassawanga bridge; thence running with the said creek to the Furnace Mill-pond; thence with said mill pond until it intersects Sandy Branch; thence by and with Sandy Branch until it intersects the county road leading from the Furnace Mill-pond to Salisbury; thence by and with said county road until it strikes the line of Wicomico county."